EIGHTH
02
MEOW MILK

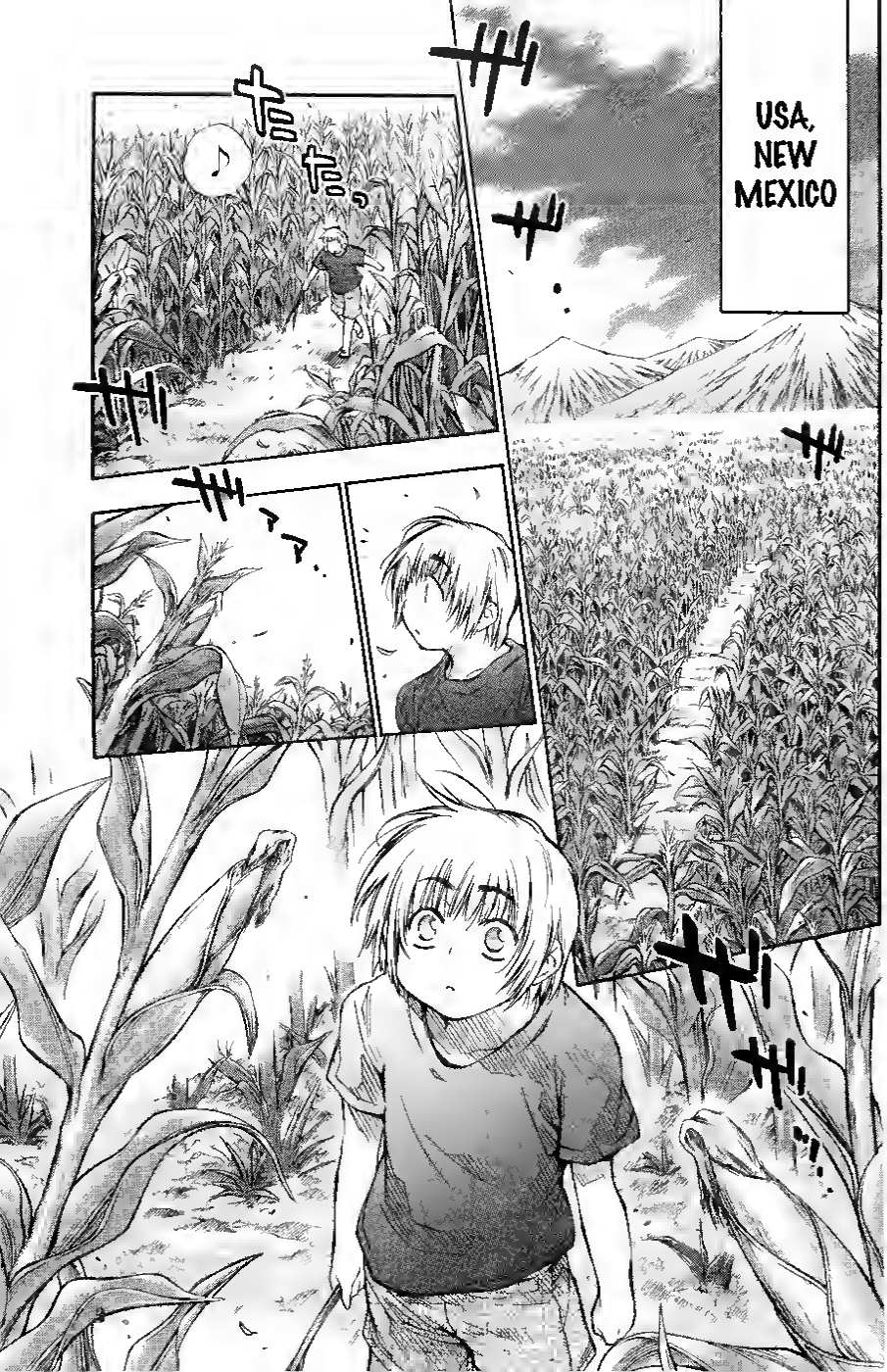
CONTENTS

Operation.5 THE DOCTOR WHO WORE A RIBBON 003

Operation.6 YOU'RE ALWAYS SO QUIET 043

Operation.7 LET ME HEAR YOUR VOICE 089

Operation.8 LOVE GENES 135


USA,
NEW
MEXICO
♪
たた、

.....?
EIGHTH RESEARCH
MATERIAL
YAWN...

PHEW~
AH, KIND OF...
WELL, THAT'S PART OF IT.
THEY'VE GOT ME RUNNING AROUND EVERY-WHERE,
AND I HAVEN'T REALLY BEEN ABLE TO SLEEP...
THERE'S NO PLACE I CAN—
そそそ
もぞもぞ
AH-
SORRY, I'M OKAY.
ふぇ～
WORK-ING THE NIGHT SHIFT UNTIL DAWN, NAOYA?
HEY NOW,
PAY ATTENTION TO THE MATERIAL LOADING.
SFX: SIGH
NAOYA-
THIS IS GETTING IN THE WAY OF MY SECURITY WORK...
BUT THERE'S NO WAY I CAN BE EXPECTED TO SLEEP WHEN THERE ARE TWO GIRLS WITH ME.
はぁ…
AH- NO WAY; THOSE ARE JUST EXCUSES. I NEED TO STAND FIRM...

HEY YOU ---
DID YOU BRING A GIRL TO THE DORM?
...EH?
OH? SO THE RUMOR IS TRUE ---
NO...
AH... SO RATHER THAN NOT GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP, YOU'RE "WORKING TOO HARD"?
YOU'RE TOO CLOSE, SENPAI...
IT-
IT ISN'T LIKE THAT! I'VE BEEN WORKING!
And just where are you getting this info?!
OKAY, OKAY, BACK TO WORK.
I KNOW YOU WANT TO GET BACK TO YOUR ROOM ASAP, BUT DON'T SPACE OUT AND LET SUSPICIOUS PACKAGES THROUGH.
GEEZ,
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT A---

!!
HEY, WHAT WAS THAT SOUND?
I DON'T KNOW. IT WASN'T A GUNSHOT, BUT...
IT'S ABOVE US!
AB-OVE?
THE TRUCK'S CARGO BED . IT CAME FROM ABOVE THERE.
HEY THERE!

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK, MY LITTLE SECURITY SOLDIERS!
SORRY TO ASK THIS, BUT COULD YOU GET MY THINGS TO ME RIGHT AWAY?
I GREW IMPATIENT AND FLEW DOWN HERE,
SO HURRY IT UP!
GET IT TO 4TH LAB'S ANGELA ON THE DOUBLE!

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Raw	PUBLIC
Translator	CASTELLAN
TLC	KATSUDON
Cleaner	ZACK
Typesetter	KF
QC	KORO

Operation.5
THE DOCTOR WHO WORE A RIBBON

どくん
IT'S STRANGE...
REALLY STRANGE.
.....
...WH-
WHAT IS...?
WHAT ARE YOU HIDING IN THERE!?
ミタミタミタミタ
JUST A BIT! JUST GIVE ME ANOTHER LITTLE PEEK!
ドドドドド
UW... UWA-AAA-AAA
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'RE ANYTHING SPECIAL!!

NA... NAOYA, SAVE ME...!
I'M GONNA DIE!
SORRY, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.
...IT'S WEIRD...
I THINK YOU'RE THE WEIRDEST ONE HERE...
BUT ISN'T IT REALLY STRANGE?!
DON'T YOU WONDER ABOUT IT?!
WHAT?!
HOW SHE GOT SUCH BIG BREASTS!
THEY BOUNCE AROUND WHENEVER SHE WALKS!
AND HOW THE HELL COULD YOU RUN WITH THEM?!
There's no way, right?!
AND IF YOU SLEEP ON YOUR BACK?!
THE REAL PROBLEM IS SLEEPING FACE DOWN! WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DO THAT?!
THINK OF THE SHAPE!

Oof...
WATCH OUT, MARI-SAN!!
Pudding
On your back, it feels kinda like pudding on a dish...
Hik-aru,
isn't it good that there are a variety of sizes?
...HOLD IT.
SO THAT'S IT...
ALL OF THAT DRAMA BEFORE WAS BECA-USE..
Don't go embellishing it without thinking!
IT'S NOT LIKE EVERY GIRL WITH SMALL BREASTS WANTS THEM TO BE BIG!!
DON'T TALK DOWN TO ME.
IT'S NOT LIKE I REALLY CARE.
I'M JUST SAYING!!
Eh?

Now that you mention it
PARENTS!!
WHAT? WHAT'D YOU DO?!
IT'S JUST CURI-OSITY!
DID YOU DO SOME-THING DIFFE-RENT?
MY MO-THER'S WERE BIG...
...DH-
I-I-I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING, REALLY!
SO THAT'S IT! IT'S YOUR FAULT, DADDY!!
EHHH!?!
Uwah— The doctor is REALLY busy right now!
Hey, hey!
SO IT HAS TO BE DADDY'S FAULT!
MOMMY WAS PRETTY BIG,
What?
You wanna talk about heredity traits?

Your daddy has huge breasts too
IDIIOOOT!!
THEN WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE...!?
WAAAA
It's not fair!
WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME?!
Yeah...
Maybe some genes are recessive?
Round bean
Wrinkled bean
The child is a round bean
That may be the reason why certain traits aren't inherited...
but visual data with your parents as the only subjects isn't enough to tell us anything.
ふーむ

Uu...
I... I KNOW THAT STUFF ALREADY! IT'S MENDEL'S LAW.
That's what I'm getting at.
To put it another way, isn't it possible the trait might appear in the next generation?

Curious about Mendel's law(s)? http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mendelian_inheritance

NO! YOU CAN'T !!
WAAA! DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!
TH-TH-TH-TH-THAT'S ---
THAT'S-
THAT'S SO DIRTY!!
WHAT!? YOU TOO, CELCIA?

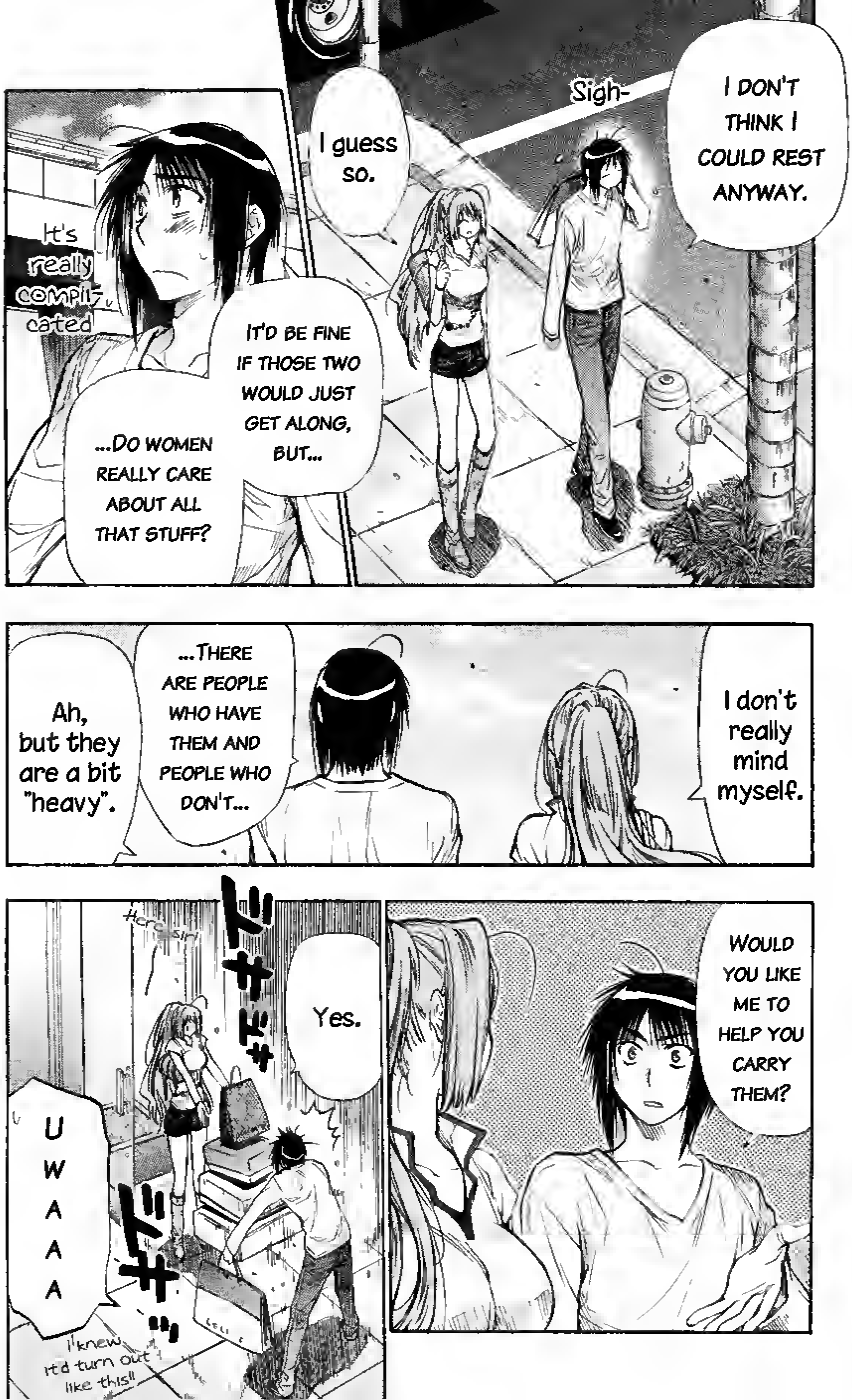
WAIT! MARI-SAN, HELP ME...!
GRR!!
ITOH
OW
My my.
.....?
.....

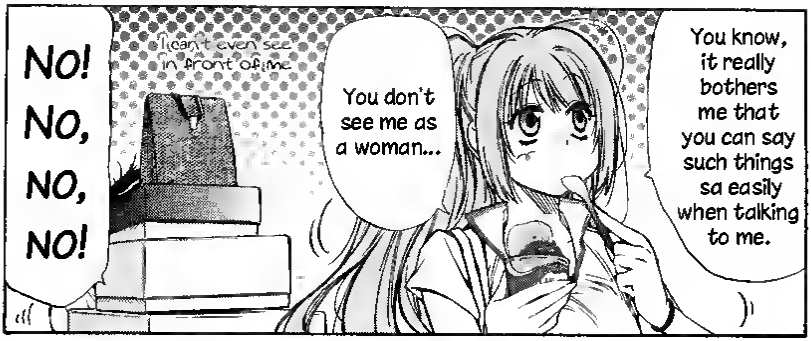
WAIT!
EVEN AFTER ALL OF THAT, I WOULDN'T CHANGE?!
HOW ANNOY-ING.

CALM DOWN, HIKARU!
FIRST, WHAT ARE YOU RAVING ON ABOUT?
I'M DEAD TIRED FROM WORK, SO PLEASE LET ME SLEEP.
BUT... Y... YOU'RE SURRO-UNDED BY SUCH...
SUCH CUTE...
UH...
.....
Now now, after I'm done with my errands here I'll be leaving the room♡

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY ERRANDS?
It... It really pains me to say this, but...
This...
Since you need changes of clothing... I thought I would go buy them.
Celcia,
!!!
m... measure them.
WHAT THE HELL...?
D-D-D-DON'T LOOK AT THEM LIKE THAT!
Hang on! It'll be over quickly!
No way!
Waaaa
IDIOTS...
HEY, NAOYA.
HEAR ME OUT.
SO AWESOME...
SO HUGE... SO EROTIC... AND SUCH.
.....

Dayton Way
ONE WAY
DAYTON
Naoya-kun, are you okay?
Didn't you want to rest?
I'M FINE.


I DON'T THINK I COULD REST ANYWAY.
Sigh-
I guess so.
It's really compli-cated
IT'D BE FINE IF THOSE TWO WOULD JUST GET ALONG, BUT...
...DO WOMEN REALLY CARE ABOUT ALL THAT STUFF?
I don't really mind myself.
...THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE THEM AND PEOPLE WHO DON'T...
Ah, but they are a bit "heavy".
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO HELP YOU CARRY THEM?
Yes.
Hatchi!
U W A A A
I knew it'd turn out like this!!


NO! NO, NO, NO!
I can't even see in front of me
You don't see me as a woman...
You know, it really bothers me that you can say such things sa easily when talking to me.

That's true.
Maybe it's as Hikaru said; what she cares about isn't really her size, you know?
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT, MARI-SAN.
YET I STILL DON'T KNOW THE RIGHT WAY TO ACT.
Well there were other men too.
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN RAISED ALONGSIDE GIRLS OLDER THAN I AM,

WHAT?
Mmm, it's nothing!
It must come as a surprise to you, Naoya-kun.
Wow~
BUT TO MAKE A BIG FUSS LIKE THAT...
Is that so?

NO, SLEEPING IN THE HALLWAY JUST ISN'T MY THING.
IT'S A PROBLEM IF I NEVER GET ANY SLEEP.
MY ABILITY TO CONCENTRATE IS DWINDLING...
At least give me a sofa
Isn't it a good thing to be surrounded by girls?
MORE IMPORTANTLY, HASN'T A SEPARATE ROOM BEEN PREPARED YET?
3 PEOPLE IS A BIT MUCH...
I WANT TO DO MY JOB RIGHT.
Hehe ...
You're right.
I think I'll have to buy something.
Here, a sleeping bag.
U W A A
It's a present to help you do your best, Naoya-kun.
I even paid for it myself.
G E E Z
YOU'RE ANYTHING BUT SEXY.
Oh?

Okay,
say "aaah" ♡
Haagen

TOO FAST.
GULP
Really?
AAH♥
RING RING
KYAAA
Whoa!

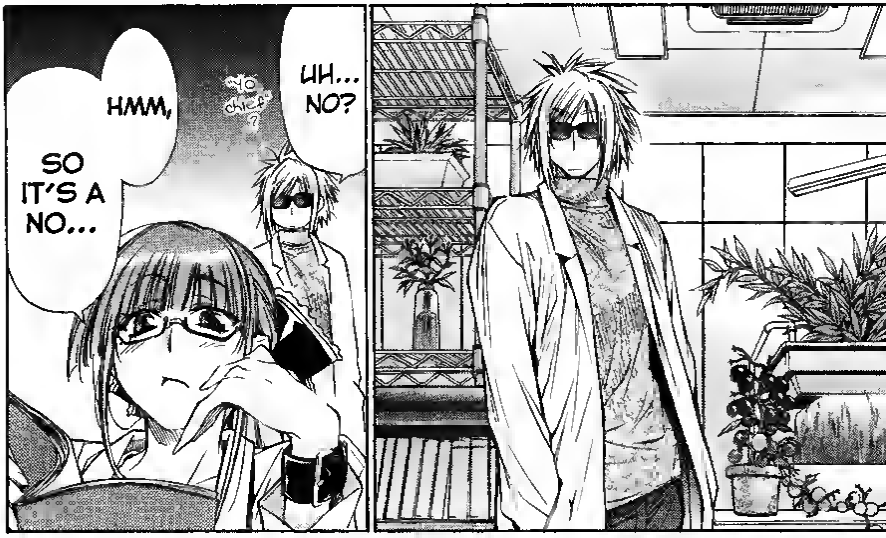
Naoya-kun, wait. I'm getting a call
EH?
RING
RING
from Eighth.
TIME OUT
Hi, you've reached Mari.
Yes.

WHAT NOW ...?
AND ON MY LONG-AWAITED DATE WITH MARI-SAN...
Damn
Yes.
...Uhm, yes. That's true, but--
WAIT A SEC-OND, I'M ON A DATE WITH MARI-SAN..!
WHOA!!
Yes.
Um...
Tell Naoya-kun?

Did you oversee materials being received at the loading dock this morning? As security.
THIS MORN-ING?
... WHAT?
AH... YEAH. I CHECKED THE CRATES COMING IN.
WHY?
...It seems like some-thing was in those boxes,
so they want to talk to you about it.

*Yes, the sign above says "Geretic Analysis" in the raws

Department Head Angela's personal research laboratory
...YO, CHIEF.
DO YOU THINK PLANTS ARE CAPABLE OF THOUGHT?


UH... NO?
HMM,
SO IT'S A NO...

SFX: SWIVEL
STILL, PLANTS ARE TOTALLY UPFRONT AND HONEST!
THE POLAR OPPOSITE OF YOU!
YOU CALLED ME HERE JUST SO YOU COULD INSULT ME TO MY FACE?
What do you know about me.
NO WAY IN HELL! I'M JUST TELLING YOU WHAT THE PLANTS ARE SAYING, YOU KNOW?!
DON'T TALK TO YOURSELF, IDIOT.

Is this conversation going somewhere?
WEREN'T YOU JUST TALKING ABOUT THEM?
BUT THERE'S A PROBLEM, YOU SEE.
A PLANT?
YOU'RE AS SHARP AS EVER.
WHATEVER. JUST GET TO THE POINT, ANGELA.
YEAH, WELL... EARLIER TODAY SOMETHING VERY INTERESTING WAS BROUGHT IN.
THAT CHILD ...
ISN'T BEING COMPLETELY HONEST.

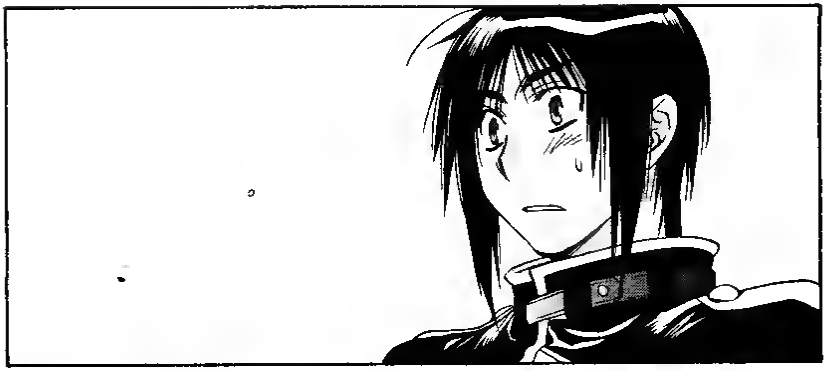
...SO,
THERE WASN'T ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS IN THE CRATES OR BOXES?
ALL THE NUMBERS AND DEPARTMENTS MATCHED UP. THERE WEREN'T ANY COMPLICATIONS...
YES.
RIGHT, NAOYA-KUN.
AH, UM ...
IT'S NAOYA.

GOT IT.
THAT WILL DO.
UM, HEY...
IF AN OVERSIGHT WAS MADE ON THE JOB...
HM? YOURS, YOU MEAN?
I'M SORRY.
HUH? I ALREADY HEARD ALL ABOUT THE DISTRIBUTION FROM THE OTHER GUARDS.
YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING.
THE OTHERS ALL GAVE THE SAME STORY.
...IS THAT SO?
.....
LUCKY FOR YOU, HUH?
Oh, how cute!
SHUT UP, YOU! WHY ARE YOU HERE ANYWAY?
YOU'RE ALWAYS POPPING UP OUT OF NOWHERE...!
EVEN AS THE CHEF
IF THAT IS THE CASE---

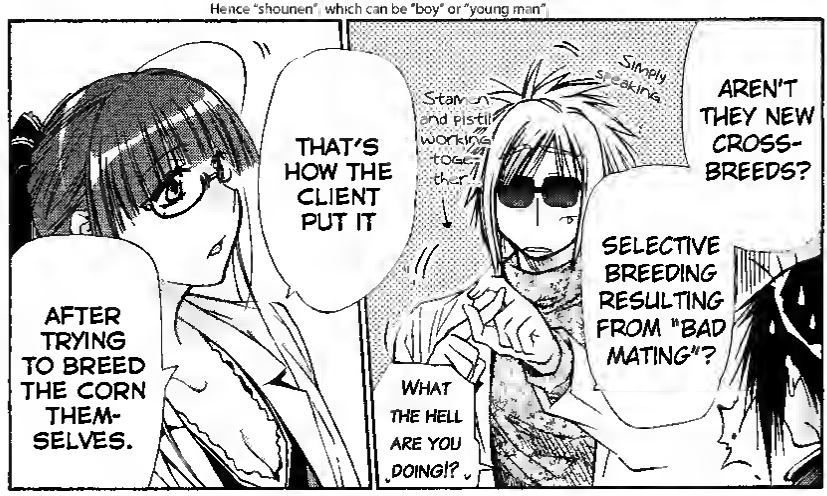
PERHAPS IT CHANGED WHILE BEING TRANS-PORTED...
BUT WHAT HAPPEN-ED AND WHERE...?
.....?
ANGELA, YOU WEREN'T BRINGING IN STRANGE PLANTS, WERE YOU?
NOT A CHANCE.
IT'S JUST NORMAL CORN,
MANY DIFFE-RENT CROSS-BREEDS.
THERE WAS AN ORDER REQUEST-ING A GENETIC ANALYSIS OF THIS SHIPMENT.

"OUR FARM'S CORN LOOKS RATHER STRANGE" WAS ALL THEY SAID?
NOTHING ELSE?
"OUR FAMILY HAS LIVED ON THIS FARM FOR A LONG TIME. GENERATIONS EVEN."
IF YOU OBSERVE PLANTS LONG ENOUGH YOU CAN READ THEIR EXPRESSIONS.
I THINK YOU TWO ARE FAR TOO IGNORANT! DON'T TAKE PLANTS LIGHTLY!!
Me too?!
WELL, I SUPPOSE IT IS STRANGE.
THAT'S IT.
THEIR HONESTY IS WHAT MAKES THEM SO CUTE!
WHAT I'M QUESTIONING IS THAT GENERATIONS OF THEM ARE JUST "NORMAL FARMERS". WRONG!
FOR THEM TO ACTUALLY SPEND THAT MUCH MONEY FOR US TO HELP THEM WITH "DNA ANALYSIS" IS ABSURD!

YOU'RE WONDERING IF THEY CAN AFFORD THE COST OF THE ANALYSIS?
WELL, THAT TOO, BUT...
HEY, YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING, AREN'T YA, BOSS?
.....
LISTEN, I CAN'T BE BOTHERED TO DO ANYTHING BUT DEAL WITH PLANTS,
SO I'M ONLY CONSIDERING USING ANALYSIS TO FIGURE IT OUT.
THE CORN RAISED ON THAT FARM
POSSESSES GENES THAT DON'T EXIST IN CORN ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.



ARather than simply calling Naoya a boy here, she's implying that he is a boy attempting to act like an adult. Hence "shounen", which can be "boy" or "young man".


AREN'T THEY NEW CROSS-BREEDS?
Simply speaking,
Stamen and pistil working together.
SELECTIVE BREEDING RESULTING FROM "BAD MATING"?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!?
THAT'S HOW THE CLIENT PUT IT
AFTER TRYING TO BREED THE CORN THEM-SELVES.

SO...
THEY WERE PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION DURING THE MATING?
I SEE...
THE TOPIC WENT THERE AFTER ALL.
WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS.
BE THAT AS IT MAY,
MOST CORN GROWN ON FARMS COMES FROM SEED COMPANIES.
MORE-OVER,
THE FIRST GENERAT-ION OF HYBRIDS BEARS THE MOST FRUIT;
YOU WON'T GET THE SAME AMOUNT OF FRUIT WHEN YOU PLANT ITS SEEDS AGAIN THE YEAR AFTER.

SO THE COMPANIES THAT SELL 90% OF THE CORN SEEDS ON THE MARKET
GENETICALLY MODIFIED THOSE WITH RECESSIVE GENES.
*CORN FARMERS AND COMPANIES DO THIS A LOT, FORCING HYBRIDIZATION TO INCREASE THE CROP YIELD IN A PROCESS CALLED "DETASSELING".
THE FARM IN QUESTION WASN'T USING GENETICALLY MODIFIED SEEDS THOUGH, CORRECT?
GIVEN THAT DNA CHANGES MANIFESTED IN THE CORN,
THAT MEANS THEY WEREN'T "BRED" WITH GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN SOLD BY THE SEED COMPANIES.

What you said earlier was enough to explain everything.
"GENETIC CONTAMI-NATION".
WELL ...
AH,
EH?
...BOY, THAT GUY'S DEDUCTIVE SKILLS MAKE IT SEEM AS THOUGH HE SAW IT WITH HIS OWN EYES.
I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR.
IT'S AN UNWANTED ACT OF BREEDING. YOU COULD EVEN CALL IT "RAPE".
SINCE POLLEN JUST "FLIES AROUND".
THAT'S WHAT IT'S CALLED,
WHAT I'M SAYING IS THAT THIS MAY ACTUALLY BE A GENETIC MUTATION.
IT~ DOES~ NOT~ MATTER~ IF IT'S THE RESULT OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS.

BUT IF THAT'S ALL, I STILL CAN'T SAY I UNDERSTAND ABOUT "HER".
SHE'S TOO STUBBORN, EVEN IF THERE'S A POSSIBILITY OF GENETIC CONTAMI-NATION.
EITHER WAY, IT'S STRANGE TO NOT SEE ANY EVIDENCE...
.....
.....
...AND YOUR POINT IS?
YOU CAN'T FINISH AN ANA-LYSIS IN HALF A DAY!

THAT WOULD BE...
Well, that is true.
WELL, I UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT...
FOR WHAT REASON DID YOU CALL ME?
MHM.
I'LL BE "BORROWING" ALL OF THE FLOORS
OF EIGHTH RESEARCH'S 4TH LAB. ♡

THERE ARE TWO THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE READING THIS CHAPTER

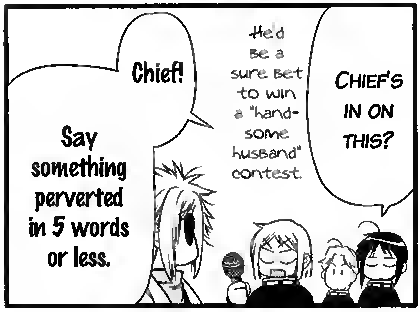
FIRST, 90% OF THE CORN GROWN EACH YEAR IS PLANTED YEARLY USING SEEDS FROM SPECIAL SEED COMPANIES TO FORCE 1ST-GENERATION "RECOMBINANT" HYBRIDIZATION AND MEGA-CORN YIELDS. ALSO, CORN DOES NOT GROW NATURALLY IN THE WILD, SO IF THE RECOMBINANT CORN CROP VARIES FROM THE EXPECTED CROP, IT MUST BE EITHER MIXING IN A NON-STANDARD VARIETY NOT BRED FOR CONSUMPTION OR THE RESULT OF A MUTATION.

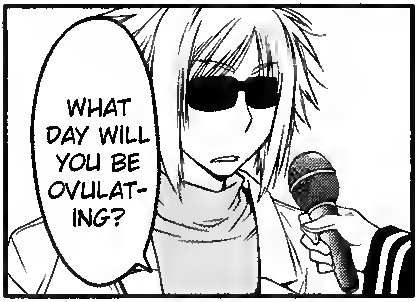
EITHER WAY, THE CROP BECOMES WORTHLESS SINCE NOBODY WILL EAT IT.

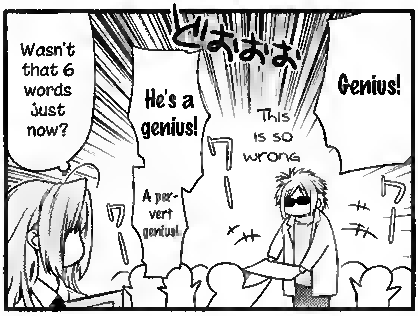
THE SECOND THING YOU NEED TO KNOW IS THAT DOCTOR ANGELA IS CRAZY.

SHE'S NUTS AND CAN'T SEEM TO KEEP A COHERENT TRAIN OF THOUGHT, AND THE JUMPING AROUND IN DIALOGUE IS MAINLY HER SPEAKING, OR THE FALLOUT OF THINGS SHE'S SAID.

The very first
パパパパーン♪
"Biggest Pervert In Eighth" contest!


CHIEF'S IN ON THIS?
He'd be a sure bet to win a "handsome husband" contest.
Chief!
Say something perverted in 5 words or less.


WHAT DAY WILL YOU BE OVULATING?


Genius!
This is so wrong
He's a genius!
A pervert genius!
Wasn't that 6 words just now?

...EVERY FLOOR IN 4TH LAB?
THAT'S RIGHT.
SO FROM HERE ON OUT I'LL BE USING ALL THE DNA RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE IN 4TH.
WE'LL FIND OUT THE TRUE NATURE OF THIS "GIRL",
WE'LL KICK-START THE FULL POWER OF OUR EIGHTH "PLANT TEAM".
RESEARCH ATTACK: START!
ARE YOU STUPID?
YOU'D STOP THE OTHER DEPARTMENTS' PROJECTS DEAD IN THEIR TRACKS?
YEAH RIGHT.

YOU GUYS
ARE THINKING SHIT LIKE "IT'S JUST CORN", AREN'T YOU?
I REALLY WASN'T THINKING THAT...
M-
M-ME EITHER!
HMPH.
HOW SAD...
HEY, YOU... SECURITY SHOUNEN.
EH?
UHM... YOU MEAN ME?
YES, YOU.
COME SIT OVER HERE.
HERE ARE SOME CHERRY TOMATOES I RAISED MYSELF.
GO AHEAD AND EAT 'EM.
♡
WHAT...?
HEY NOW, ARE YOU TRYING FOR A MAJORITY VOTE?

HELL NO.
WAAAA?!
!?
SO, HOW ABOUT I TAKE THE LIVES OF THESE HOSTAGES?*
IF YOU'RE GONNA SHOOT, THEN SHOOT.
WHAT?! YOU WANT HIM TO DIE BEFORE HE'S EATEN THESE CUTE TOMATOES?
I'LL ACCEPT YOUR SURRENDER OF THE RESEARCH FACILITY.
HEY, YOU GUYS!!

*SHE'S THREATENING THE TOMATOES TOO

...IT'S JUST LIKE ALWAYS.
!
BECAUSE WE'RE NOT "DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH HUMAN LIVES", THE PLANT TEAM ALWAYS GETS THE SHAFT.
IT'S HORRIBLE...
HEY!
WAIT...
Hell, I'll even help her!
SHE'S SAYING SHE WANTS TO CHECK IT OUT, SO WHY NOT LET HER?
I NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT REFUSING HER REQUEST.
OKAY, FINE.
WE'LL SEE, AFTER I MOVE SOME THINGS AROUND
OKAY! SO I HAVE YOUR WORD, CHIEF!?
WHAT?!

JUST WHAT IS THE PLANT TEAM DOING?!
ONE MOMENT!! WOULD YOU KINDLY STOP HOGGING ALL OF THE RESEARCH ROOMS?
DR. ANGELA!!
DOCTOR!!
HUH?!
IT'S MORE LIKE I'M TAKING CHARGE OF THE OTHER DEPARTMENTS.
YOU'RE SCREWING OVER EVERYONE IN THE OTHER DEPARTMENTS!
DOCTOR!!
OH YEAH.
THEN MY APPROVAL WAS NEVER EVEN CONSIDERED!!

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Raw	PUBLIC
Translator	CASTELLAN
TLC	KATSUDON
Cleaner	ZACK
Typesetter	KF
QC	KORO

Operation.6
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO QUIET

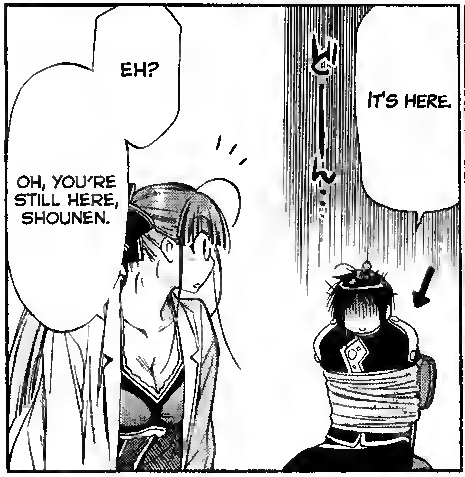
CHIEF
IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING QUICKLY--
CAN'T BE HELPED. .
ANGELA DOESN'T REALLY LISTEN WHEN I TALK TO HER.
BUT THE EXPENSES FOR THIS RESEARCH ARE GOING TO BE ASTRONOMICAL!
JUST WHAT THE HELL IS THIS CORN?!
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT.
ISN'T IT MADE OF "GOLD"?
MARI,
PUT OUT A NOTICE TO THE OTHER DEPARTMENTS THAT WE'LL BE STRIPPING THEM OF THEIR ANALYSIS EQUIPMENT.
Yes sir.

Uhm... I still think we'll have trouble.
I don't think they mean to denigrate the plant team, but...
Statements like "they're just plants" miss the point.
It might be better if you put an end to it before something happens.

REGARDLESS, ANGELA'S GOING TO RUSH IT...
I'M SURE SHE'LL SOLVE IT SHORTLY.
WHOA
SHE'S A GREAT DOCTOR, HUH?
THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO TAKE THAT.
YOU COULD EVEN SAY SHE'S A "CHILD PRODIGY"... EITHER WAY, I ALWAYS END UP HAVING TO KEEP AN EYE ON HER.
EVEN I RESPECT THE CORN.
Oh...

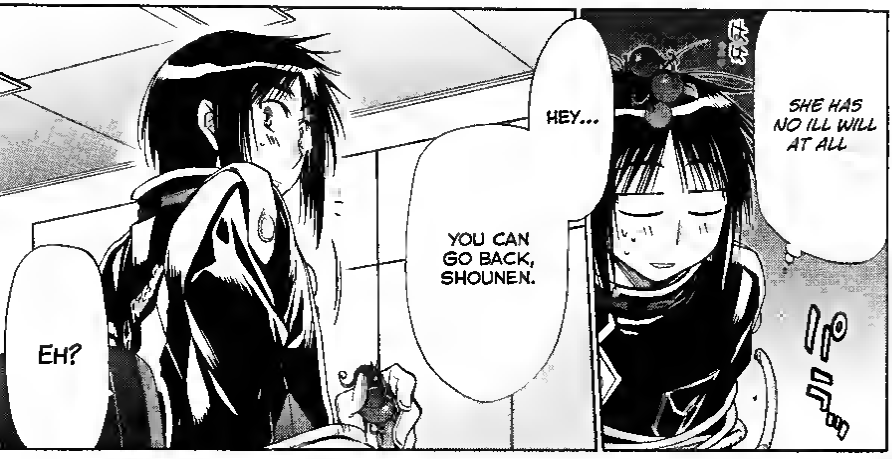
ピッ…
OKAAAY,
NOW WE CAN OPEN UP YOUR HEART.
WHEW
ど
ん!

WELL NOW, JUST WHO IN THE WORLD ARE YOU?
THIS TIME I'LL HEAR YOU OUT PROPERLY, CORN!
UHM...
HEY...
PI-KO
PI-KO
OKAY!
HERE IT COMES! GIMME THE ANALYSES! SPIT 'EM ALL OUT.
BEEP
PRINT


EH?
OH, YOU'RE STILL HERE, SHOUNEN.
IT'S HERE.

OKAY THEN...
HUH?
MY CHAIR ISN'T HERE...?!
HEY!
UM
PRINT
PI-KO
PI-KO
PI-KO

WELL, I WAS KIND OF ROOTED TO THE SPOT... OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
THAT WOULD MAKE IT TOUGH TO MOVE.
OKAY, LET ME GET YOU OFF THERE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH...


SHE HAS NO ILL WILL AT ALL
HEY...
YOU CAN GO BACK, SHOUNEN.
EH?

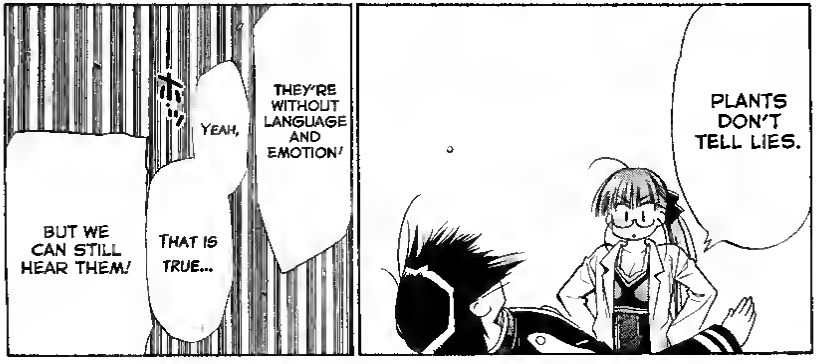
NO... UHM...
Print
Print
Beep
Print
PI-KO
LOOK, IS THERE STILL SOME PART OF YOU THAT CAN'T MOVE?
BECAUSE I'M REALLY BUSY.
PI-KO
CLICK-CLACK
SORRY, UHM...
IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU, I'LL HELP OUT.

IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?
Print
Beep
PI-KO
PI-KO
PI-KO

HM?
PI-KO
PI-KO
PI-KO
HUH?
HM...? NO, LOOK, YOU'RE A SHOUNEN.
ERM... AS A SHOUNEN, YOU MUST RETURN TO YOUR SECURITY WORK.
YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY INTEREST IN CORN ANYWAY.
NOT TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT, BUT...
I'M HERE TO PROTECT THE RESEARCH STAFF.
I RESPECT THE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES, IT'S JUST THAT...
HMM...
SO THE JOB IS...
.....
UH... UHMM...
Print
S-
SO I'LL TRY TO LIKE THEM...
!
TO LOVE PLANTS!?

HUH...?
KINDA ...
AH, I'VE GOT IT!
WELL, THERE'S THAT...
Print
I WANTED IT ALL TO MYSELF, BUT...
LISTEN UP, SHOUNEN!
YES?

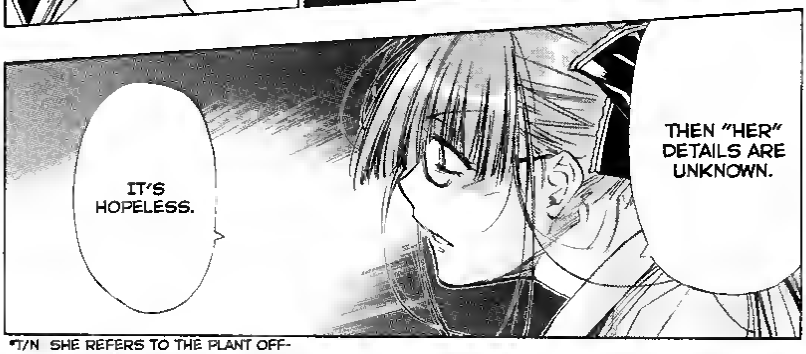
THE PLANTS COME FIRST!
EEEEH?!
TH-TH-THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?!
SO LISTEN UP!
THE VERY FIRST THING IS...
I STEPPED ON IT!


PLANTS DON'T TELL LIES.
THEY'RE WITHOUT LANGUAGE AND EMOTION!
YEAH,
THAT IS TRUE...
BUT WE CAN STILL HEAR THEM!

IF I LISTEN REALLY CLOSELY,
THEY'LL TELL ME ALL KINDS OF THINGS FROM THE BOTTOMS OF THEIR HEARTS!
...DOCTOR, YOU REALLY LIKE PLANTS, HUH?
NO, I LOVE THEM!
ESPECI-ALLY SINCE...
IT'S SO NICE HOW THEY DON'T COMPLAIN, EVEN WHEN THEY'RE BEING CHOPPED TO BITS WHILE HELPING ME!!
IF THEY WERE HUMAN, THEY'D BE COMPLAINING!!
Print
UHM ...
IF WE COULD GET TO THE JOB IN QUESTION.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!

EEP-
GOD, THIS IS A BORING DISCUSSION.
UHM...
AS THE CHIEF SAID, IT MAY BE MIXED IN WITH THE POLLEN OF THE MODIFIED CROPS.
THINK IT OVER, SHOUNEN.
DO YOU THINK THE "GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS" ARE THE RESULT OF DNA RECOMBINATION?
SO IT'S LIKE... IT'D BE AWESOME IF IT WAS...?
EXACTLY.
UH... UHM...
This too
This is also wrong.
And this
Data report
THINK IT OVER, SHOUNEN.
DO YOU THINK THE "GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS" ARE THE RESULT OF DNA RECOMBI-NATION?
SFX FLIP
SFX SCATTER
SERI-OUSLY?
I'LL KNOW IN A FEW MINUTES WHETHER IT'S A BLEND OR "GM".
OH...
IF IT'S RECOMBINANT, THERE SHOULD BE CLUES TO THEIR OBJECTIVE.
THERE'S A TEST KIT THAT RESPONDS TO PARTICULAR PROTEINS.
IT'S AROUND $1000 U.S (100,000 yen)
GM Genetic Modification

EVEN IF THEY AREN'T PRIMARIES, IF THERE ARE SAMPLES AND TESTS THEY CAN BE MATCHED TO DNA.
PI-KO
PI-KO
PI-KO
IF IT'S STILL UNDER DEVELOPMENT, IT'S A GIVEN THAT IT WON'T SHOW UP ON THE TABLES.
THESE GUYS ARE LIVING "TRADE SECRETS".
SO, IF THEY'RE MIXED...



*T/N SHE REFERS TO THE PLANT OFF-SPRING AS "GIRLS" AND "DAUGHTERS"

IT ISN'T JUST ME; THE ENTIRE PLANT TEAM THINKS THE SAME WAY.
THAT ISN'T WHAT CAUSED THIS GIRL TO CHANGE.
IT SEEMS LIKE THERE'S ANOTHER REASON FOR IT.
KEEP OUT
Do not enter
OH...
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN...
...PEOPLE TALK TOO MUCH.
THEY'RE TOO LOUD...
TOO LOUD FOR IT TO BE HELPED.
BZZZZZ
!?

PARDON ME, DOCTOR ANGELA,
!
BUT UHM...
SOME PEOPLE HAVE COME HERE TO MEET WITH YOU...
.....
I DON'T CARE IF THEY COME IN.
GO AHEAD
MM... SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE
I'M THE ONE WHO REQUESTED THE ANALYSIS OF THE CORN.
!!?

I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT IT...
JUST WHAT IS IT?
HOW WAS IT, OLD TIMER?
WE ONLY RECEIVED A SINGLE PHONE CALL.
HEY NOW... THAT'S QUITE A TRIP.
I JUST RECEIVED THE DAUGHTER THIS MORNING. THERE'S NOTHING TO TELL.
WE HAVE THE LATEST EQUIPMENT AND THE BEST RESEARCHERS WORKING ON IT AS FAST AS THEY CAN, JUST AS YOU REQUESTED.
STILL, I DON'T THINK WE'LL GET AN ANSWER SO EASILY.
THERE DON'T SEEM TO BE ANY SIGNS OF GM-INDUCED OFFSPRING.
THAT. .
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE!
WE USED RECOMBINANT CORN ALL AROUND OUR FARMHOUSE!

I CAN'T GET IT DONE IF IT'S TOO NOISY!
MY UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT I WAS TO FIND OUT EVERYTHING I COULD ABOUT THIS GIRL.
THE GENETIC CONTAMINATION WE'RE INVESTIGATING MAY BE DUE TO MINOR GM PRODUCTS.

ALL THOSE ANALYSES WILL FINISH SOON.
NEXT WE'LL USE THE GIRL TO UNCOVER HER ORIGIN.
AFTERWARDS WE'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO HAVE A DECENT CONVERSATION WITH HER.
OLD TIMER, YOU PICKED A GOOD TIME TO ASK FOR AN ANALYSIS.
IN THE ENTIRE NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE, THERE ARE MORE THAN 32,000 ITEMS IN THE 10 CHROMOSOMES THAT MAKE UP CORN.

*THE GENETIC SEQUENCE OF CORN WAS DECODED IN 2009, WHEN THIS CHAPTER WAS FIRST PUBLISHED IN JAPAN

THEY ONLY JUST FINISHED DECODING THE REST OF THE GENETIC SEQUENCE THE OTHER DAY.
I MAY JUST FIND OUT HER PERSONALITY, BEHAVIOR AND FAVORITE FOOD.

IT- IS- NOT- WORTH- DOING- THAT- MUCH.
...THAT'S ENOUGH.
...
ごっ。
...WH-
WHAT?
TRUE, WE DID ASK YOU FOR AN ANALYSIS, BUT-.
OUR CURIOSITY DOESN'T GO THAT FAR.
WE CAN'T PAY FOR ANYTHING BEYOND FINDING EVIDENCE OF GENETIC CONTAMINATION.
THAT'S ...
WHAT ARE YOU...
BUT SHE PROB- ABLY...
HAS MORE TO SAY...

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
YEAH, SURE, SHE'S A DAUGHTER THAT SOMEHOW CHANGED, BUT STILL!
SHE'S BEEN WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO LOOK CLOSELY AND UNDERSTAND HER!
YOU'RE A RESEARCHER, SO THAT KIND OF THING
IS NATURALLY FUN FOR YOU...
!
ALL THAT "THE CORN HAS MUTATED" MEANS TO US
IS THAT NOBODY WILL EAT IT.

WE CAN'T EVEN USE THE CROPS AT OUR FARMHOUSE FOR RESEARCH.
...I KNOW ALL OF THAT,
EVEN WITHOUT YOU TELLING ME.
BUT STILL, ABOUT WHAT HAP-PENED...
THE "CORN", AS YOU CALL IT...
ISN'T A PLANT THAT GROWS NATURALLY, UNLESS PLANTED BY HUMAN HANDS.
CORN HAS BEEN IMPROVED, SINCE IT'S CONVENIENT FOR HUMANS TO EAT, AND I CAN'T SAY THAT THAT'S A BAD THING.

THEY DON'T SPEAK, BUT THE GIRL STILL GIVES HER HONESTY IN SILENCE!
THEY KNOW WHAT CHANGED, AND NOW THEY'RE TRYING TO TELL US!
THEY'VE BEEN WAITING THIS WHOLE TIME TO SAY IT!
AND I'M TELLING YOU THAT THAT'S FAR ENOUGH.
YEAH... THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'S ACTUALLY A MATTER OF HOW FAR WE SHOULD GO WITH THIS METHOD OF ANALYSIS.
I ALSO MADE THIS REQUEST OF OTHER RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS.
WHAT THE ...?!
... THOSE ...

SFX: SLAM
THOSE WHO CAN'T TALK TO THEIR OWN PLANTS
SHOULDN'T BE FARMERS!!

So cute!
YUP.
ISN'T IT WONDERFUL? MARI-SAN WAS KIND ENOUGH TO BUY US OUTFITS.
OH YEAH, I'VE GOT SOME BOXES HERE TOO.

……
HUH ...?

HMM, RIGHT... WHERE CAN I TRY THESE ON...?
……

...SAY,
CELCIA ...
BE-FORE THAT ...
WELL, UHM... WHY ARE YOU IN NAOYA'S ROOM?
EH?
SFX: FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING

SFX: FOOTSTEPS RUNNING AWAY

HEY ...
That woman is...
an awful person!!
HUH?
She has such a scary face!!
I'm sure she's in league with those people...
I saw them with my own eyes!

WAI-
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
YOU CAN'T! YOU HAVE TO STAY HERE!
I... I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT STILL!
SFX: STAND

!!!
And what's with you? A man dressing like that?!
Stupid!!
H-
HIKA-
SFX: POP

HIKARU-SAAAN!!
SFX: WHOOSH
DAMN IT!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!

IT'S NOT JUST BECAUSE OF THE REQUEST. WHY'S SHE TALKING LIKE THAT?!
WOULDN'T A LACK OF GENETIC CONTA-MINANTS NORMALLY BE A GOOD THING?
IT'S LIKE SHE THINKS "IT'S NOT WRONG, SO IT'S A PROBLEM".
...NO, THAT'D BE OKAY.
THE PLANT TEAM IS NEVER TAKEN SERIOUSLY.
WHAT'S WITH THAT?
REALLY, WHAT'S GOING ON?
I REALLY HATE DEALING WITH TROUBLES OUTSIDE OF PLANTS.

YOU'RE A RESEARCHER, SO THAT KIND OF THING IS NATURALLY FUN FOR YOU...
ANGELA-SAN---
I LOVE PLANTS!!

SFX: SLAM
DR. ANGELA!
HM?
PANT
OH, IT'S THE SHOUNEN. WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
WHAT BRINGS...
K-
KEEP ON GOING... WITH YOUR ANALYSIS!
HEHE ...
DIDN'T THEY ASK US TO STOP?

ARE YOU JUST GOING TO STOP?!
YOU'RE SUCH A SHOUNEN.
THERE ARE MANY KINDS OF CORN;
AT LEAST 250,000 VARIETIES HAVE BEEN DISCOV-ERED.
250 TH--...?
Huh...?!
AND AMONG THOSE,
ARE THERE FRIENDS OF THIS GIRL?
OR PERHAPS HER CHILDREN?
WHAT KIND OF DAUGH-TER IS SHE?

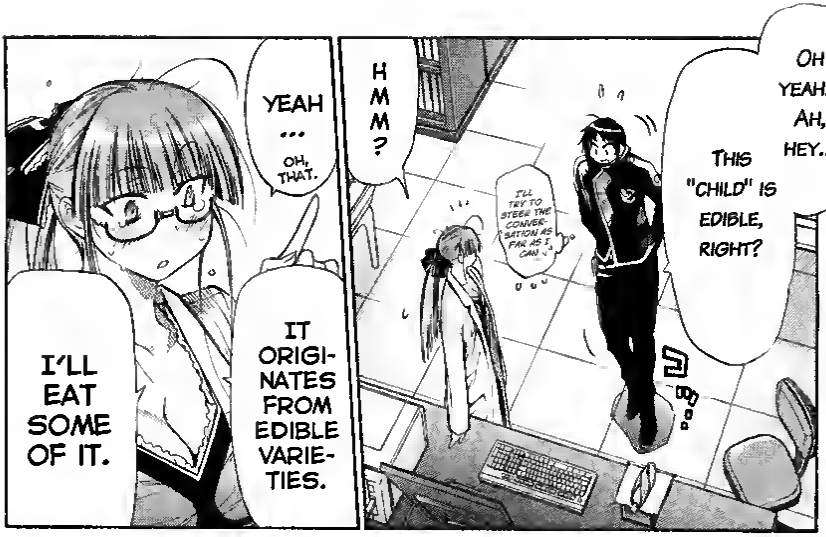
I BET YOU THINK THEY'RE ALL THE SAME, SHOU-NEN.
I DO NOT THINK THAT.
I HAD A SENSEI...
BACK WHEN OLDER DNA ANALYSIS TECHNOLOGY WAS UNABLE TO PERFORM A DECENT ANALYSIS.

SHE WAS A WOMAN WHO DISCOVERED "MOVABLE GENETIC COMPONENTS" OF CORN IN CROPS WITH A MICROSCOPE.
NOBODY EVEN PAID ATTENTION BACK THEN. YET NOW THE FIELD IS CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL.
ESPECIALLY "TRANSPOSONS", GENES THAT JUMP AROUND AND CHANGE THE SEQUENCE.
THEY SAY IT HAS BECOME A SOURCE OF INFO ON SPECIES EVOLUTION AND DIVER-SITY.
SENSEI HEARD THE TALE BY LISTENING TO THE CORN.
IT WAS A WOND-ROUS TYPE OF CORN.
I WANTED TO HEAR IT TOO.

I REALLY WANT
TO ACTU-ALLY TALK TO THEM TOO...

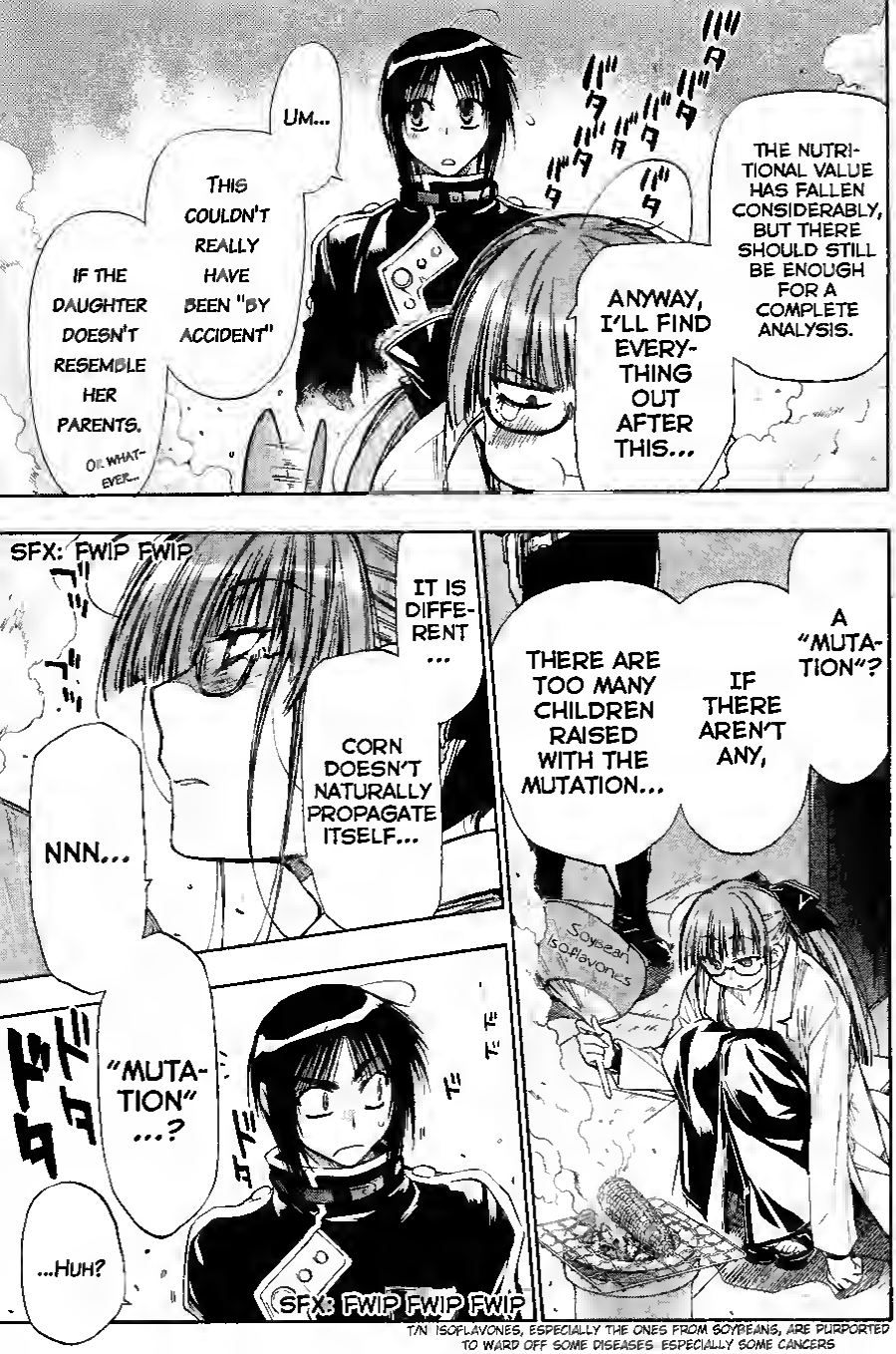
SFX: SNIFF, SOB
SO WHY WOULD HE CALL IT "STUFF LIKE THAT"?
DON'T SAY THAT THIS DAUGHTER ISN'T IMPORTANT.
NO... I DON'T WANNA STOP!
DOCTOR...
NOOOOOOO!!
おぉぉぉ
...AND NOW SHE'S CRYING?
びぇぇぇん

...BUT THIS PERSON...
SHE WANTS TO DO RESEARCH...!
UWAAAAAAA
UH, UM... HEY, DR. ANGELA!
HEY!
HELLO! YO!
FREEZE
HEY ...!
UH, HELLO ...?
I'VE GOT A QUESTION HERE...
WHAT ...?
AH...
OKAY ...
GO AHEAD AND ASK...
SHE'S BACK!!!


OH YEAH... AH, HEY...
THIS "CHILD" IS EDIBLE, RIGHT?
I'LL TRY TO STEER THE CONVERSATION AS FAR AS I CAN...
HMM?
YEAH... OH, THAT.
IT ORIGINATES FROM EDIBLE VARIETIES.
I'LL EAT SOME OF IT.

UH... WHAT?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
HM?
IT WAS SENT AS A SAMPLE OF OTHERWISE HEALTHY CROPS.

WELL, IT'S DIFFERENT TO ME, BUT I'LL TREAT IT LIKE IT'S NORMAL.
Wah→ You aren't allowed to have open flames in the lab
This is one of my children, so it's fine.
A "MUTATED DAUGHTER" ISN'T REALLY EDIBLE THOUGH, IS IT?
ACTUALLY, I DON'T REALLY KNOW YET.


THE NUTRITIONAL VALUE HAS FALLEN CONSIDERABLY, BUT THERE SHOULD STILL BE ENOUGH FOR A COMPLETE ANALYSIS.
ANYWAY, I'LL FIND EVERYTHING OUT AFTER THIS...
UM...
THIS COULDN'T REALLY HAVE BEEN "BY ACCIDENT"
IF THE DAUGHTER DOESN'T RESEMBLE HER PARENTS,
OR WHATEVER...
A "MUTATION"?
IF THERE AREN'T ANY,
THERE ARE TOO MANY CHILDREN RAISED WITH THE MUTATION...
Soybean Isoflavones
IT IS DIFFERENT...
CORN DOESN'T NATURALLY PROPAGATE ITSELF...
SFX: FWIP FWIP
NNN...
"MUTATION"...?
...HUH?
SFX: FWIP FWIP FWIP

T/N ISOFLAVONES, ESPECIALLY THE ONES FROM SOYBEANS, ARE PURPORTED TO WARD OFF SOME DISEASES ESPECIALLY SOME CANCERS

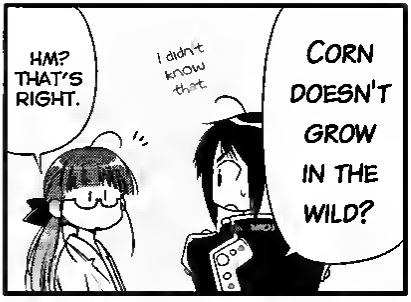
HEY!
YOU LITTLE SHIT!!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!!!
!!?
HIKA...
RU?
Uwaaa
SFX: YANK

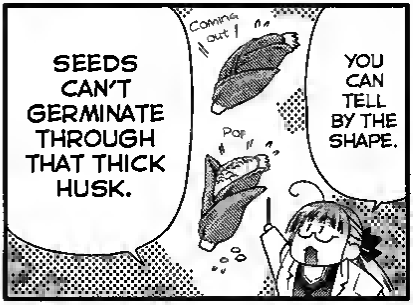
SFX: HEEHEE
Give this to that woman!!
IT'S FINE, I'LL DRAG HIM BACK.
SORRY NAOYA, THIS KID SUDDENLY TOOK OFF.
THAT KID'S ONE OF THE ONES THAT COMMISSIONED THE REQUEST
HUH...?!
She's believing a lie!
.....
SFX: SIZZLE SIZZLE SIZZLE
It's all the result of lies!!
YOU... YOU'RE STILL SAYING THAT?!

I REMEMBER!!
UWAAAAA?!
HEY!!
I REME-MBER IT, SHOUNEN!
YEAH!!
IT EXISTS! IT'S THERE! THAT DNA!!
SHE HAS FRIE-NDS!
EH?!
Y-YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON?!

YES?
BUT THERE'S A PROBLEM, SHOUNEN!
THE AREA THE DAUGHTER WAS MADE IN IS JUST WEIRD!
THE FACT THAT SHE CAME FROM NEW MEXICO IS UN-BE-LIE-VA-BLE!!
BUT THAT'S DEFINITELY WHAT THE GIRL IS SAYING, SHOUNEN!
STOP ...
JUST WHAT DID I DO?
OUR FARM IS IN NEW MEXICO,
IT ISN'T WEIRD!
SO YOU HAVE TO BE A LIAR!
HEY! CUT IT OUT!

!?
AAH
...
HERE!!


HM? THAT'S RIGHT.
I didn't know that.
CORN DOESN'T GROW IN THE WILD?


SEEDS CAN'T GERMINATE THROUGH THAT THICK HUSK.
Coming out!
Pop
YOU CAN TELL BY THE SHAPE.

AH, SO THEY GREW AN OVER-LAPPING SKIN.
Whoa
THIS IS SAID TO BE THE MUTATION THAT STARTED IT ALL.
And afterwards the traits improved.

HM? SHOUNEN, YOU HAVE SUCH AN UNDER-STATED EXPRES-SION...
IT'S BELIEVED THAT THE SKIN GREW TO PROTECT THE INSIDES.
THE SKIN WOULD BE LIKE ...
PRE-SUMABLY BECAUSE HUMANS WOULD EAT THEM.
It's weird!

Operation.7 LET ME HEAR YOUR VOICE

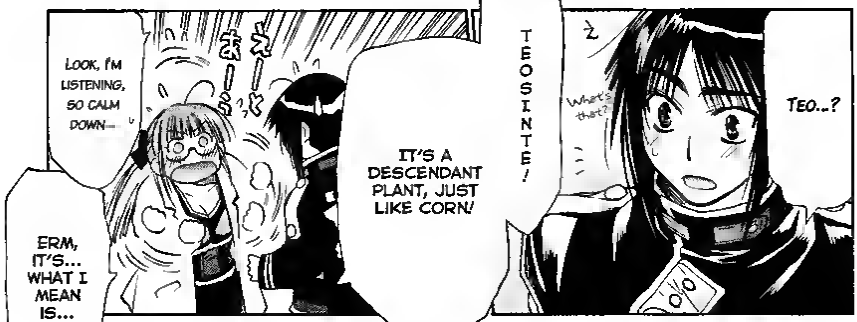
AH...
AH...
...AH!

HEY...
WHAT'S THAT?!
WAAA-
EH...?
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT?!

OH, IT'S THE SHOU-NEN!
WAI-DOCTOR! CALM DOWN, DOCTOR!
YES!
WHAAAAA?!
QUI-CKLY! ANSWER ME!!
EH?
THAT'S IT!
IT'S THE SPROUT THAT THE KID IS CARRYING!
THAT "GIRL" HAS INHERITED THE GENE!! THAT'S THE FATHER!
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG!
HEY, WHERE DID YOU FIND THAT LEAF!?
THIS GREW IN A FIELD NEAR OUR HOUSE!

NEAR YOUR HOME? YOU MEAN NEW MEXICO?!
BUT THAT'S NOT P----
I SWEAR IT'S TRUE!
...YEAH,
THAT'S WHAT "SHE" HAS BEEN SAYING AS WELL.
WHY...?!

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN, DOCTOR...?
WHAT?! DON'T YOU KNOW ANYTHING, SHOUNEN?!
IT'S "TEOSINTE"!


TEO..?
What's that?
TEOSINTE!
IT'S A DESCENDANT PLANT, JUST LIKE CORN!
LOOK, I'M LISTENING, SO CALM DOWN—
ERM, IT'S... WHAT I MEAN IS...

EH?
SUCH A PLANT EXISTS?
IT DOES!!
IT EXISTS, BUT...
THIS GENETIC MUTATION OR ABNORMALITY MATCHES UP WITH CORN'S GENETIC ANCESTORS!
THAT'S A PURE-BRED TEOSINTE PLANT!
A HEREDITARY ANCESTOR!
EH...?
IT DOESN'T GROW ANYWHERE IN THIS COUNTRY!
THE ORIGINAL PLANT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BECOME EXTINCT.
WHY DID THAT GENE SHOW UP AMONG THOSE DAUGHTERS ALL ON ITS OWN?
IT'S UNBELIEVABLE...

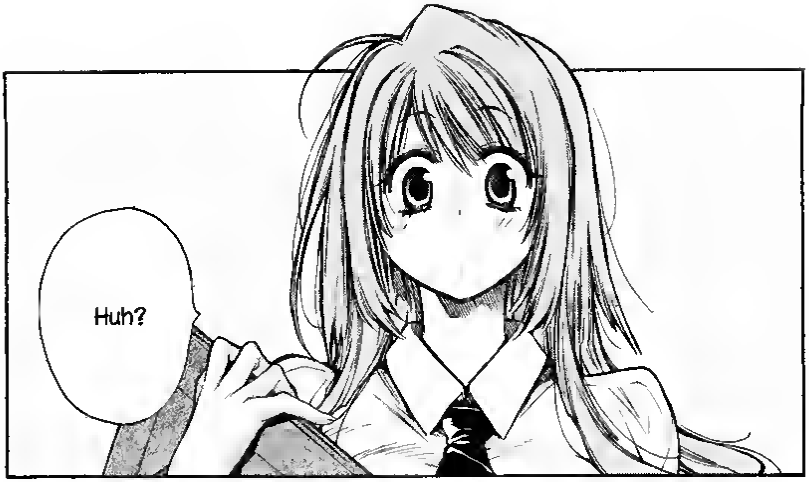
AND YET...
I DO REMEMBER IT...
THAT GENE IS DEFINITELY FROM TEOSINTE...
EH?!
NO WAY! YOU REMEMBER THE WHOLE DNA SEQUENCE?!
LISTEN!!
I'M NOT LYING!!

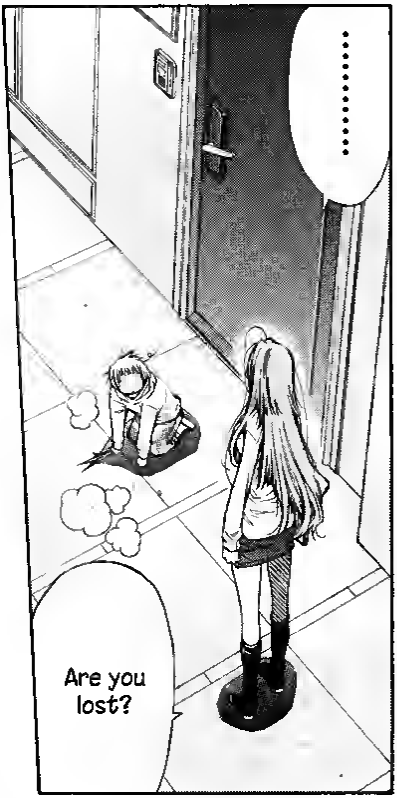
DR. ANGELA...
LET'S GO
TO THE FARM!

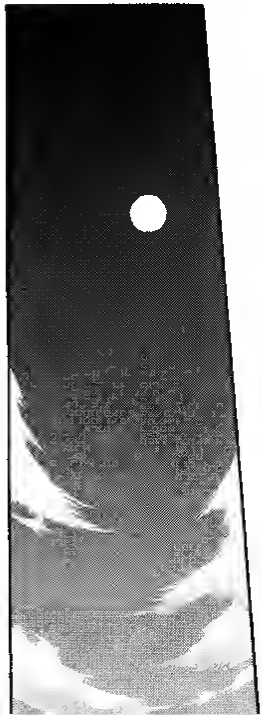
TO THE SOURCE!
IF YOU WANT TO HEAR WHAT THE GIRLS HAVE TO SAY, THEN I BELIEVE IN YOU!
WH-
WHAT?
.....
...B-
BUT... SHOU-NEN!
I... I DON'T... HEY...
WE'LL GO AND CHECK IT OUT!
I'M SAYING WE'LL STOP...
I... I DON'T NEED TO...
DOCTOR!!
I'LL KEEP YOU SAFE

THE GIRLS ARE WAITING FOR A DOCTOR TO ARRIVE!
THEY'RE EVEN CRYING OUT!
Naoya
Doctor—!! Save us—!!
Eep...!!
UH,
UHM...
LET'S GO!
WE'RE HEADING TO THE FARM!
RIGHT!
TO MEET THE GIRLS!
WAIT...

THE CORN!!
ムー!!
ARE YOU SERIOUS!!?
JUST WAIT A MINUTE
WHO ARE YOU GOING TO MEET AND TALK WITH?!
WAIT NAOYA!
WAIT!
I'M GOING TOO..!!
RIGHT!
はい!
LET'S GO, SHOUNEN!


Huh?


.....
Are you lost?



THIS WAY, SHOUNEN!
DOC...
DOCTOR! PLEASE WAIT UP!

NOT A CLUE.
WE JUST HAVE TO FOLLOW THE DOCTOR...
HE... HEY!
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THIS "TEOSINTE" IS?!

YEAH, BUT HE WAS UPSET ENOUGH AS THINGS WERE.
HE PROBABLY WOULDN'T TELL US IN THAT STATE.

DID THE DOCTOR REALLY UNDER-STAND THE WHOLE STORY?
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN BETTER IF WE'D LIS-TENED TO THAT BOY.

BESIDES, THE DOCTOR SAID SHE WANTED TO GET GOING RIGHT AWAY, SO THERE WAS NOTHING WE COULD DO ABOUT IT.
AND JUST WHY IS THAT?
YOU'RE BASICALLY JUST A BODYGUARD, SO WOULD YOU NORMALLY GO THIS FAR!?

AND... AND IT'S BECAUSE OF "THAT" AGAIN, ISN'T IT?
YOU'RE WORKING SO HARD FOR HER SAKE BECAUSE DR. ANGELA'S SUCH A BEAUTY!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THAT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT...
You're being rude again!
LIAR!!
YOU CAN CALL ME A LIAR, BUT...
AH... WELL... SHE MAY BE ATTRACTIVE AND KIND OF STRANGE...
You could call her a "worthless hottie" No, that's rude.
What's her problem?
BUT...

HER FACE WAS CUTE WHEN SHE SMILED...
KINDA.
GRR...
WHAT!?
YOU'RE SAYING A WOMAN ALWAYS HAS TO SMILE!
N... NOW LISTEN, YOU!
THAT ISN'T HOW IT IS!
THE DOCTOR SPOKE SO HAPPILY ABOUT PLANTS.
IF YOU SAY THAT'S THE REASON I'M HERE, YOU'RE RIGHT!
I DON'T THINK THAT'S BEYOND A SECURITY GUARD'S DUTY.
TH-
THAT'S
UWAA
SNIFF
SNIFF
AHA!

THERE IT IS!
ひぃっ
Wow!!!
EH? WHAT IS IT THAT I'M NOT SEEING?!
SOMETHING NOT VISIBLE...
THEY'RE CALLING! LET'S GO!
THEY CALL...?
What else is out there?
IT MIGHT REALLY BE HERE!
IT'S GIVING OFF THE SMELL OF WATER!
WATER?

TEOSINTE IS NATIVE TO MARSHY LOWLANDS.
FOR IT TO GROW THERE MUST BE WATER NEARBY,
AND IF IT SPRAYED POLLEN OVER THIS CORNFIELD IT MUST BE UPWIND.
MOREOVER, THE WIND CARRIES THE SMELL OF WATER!
INSIDE THE DAUGHTERS WERE
GENES FOR RESISTANCE TO MOISTURE.
CORN IS A PLANT RESISTANT TO DRY CONDITIONS,
BUT THERE WAS ALSO A GENE ALLOWING THEM TO GROW WHEN IMMERSED IN WATER.
THEY'RE CALLING--!!

ヤバ

IT...
IT'S HERE...
IT'S REALLY HERE...
DOCTOR!

ズザ…
THEY'RE HEEERE!
どばーん
AH—
…WAIT,
There's no helping her
Why is there water?
SHOULDN'T YOU BE HELPING HER?
THE DOCTOR DID SAY IT GREW IN WATER...
OH.. THAT'S RIGHT.
DOCTOR!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
SHOUNEN! GOOD THING YOU WERE PASSING BY!
THIS IS TEOSINTE!

HUH...?
SO THIS IS...
Nothing like what I imagined
AH...
NOW WHAT ARE YOU DOING, GROWING OUT HERE?
OID THIS CROSS-BREED WITH THAT CORN?
AH, THAT'S IT!
NOW HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?
YOU AREN'T VERILE, MY LITTLE TEOSINTE.
NORMALLY I WOULDN'T EVEN CONSIDER IT!

BUT...
IT'S JUST LIKE THE DAUGHTERS TOLD ME!
I'M SO HAPPY!
TRULY WONDERFUL!
WONDER-FUL!

SHOUNEN... LISTEN TO ME.
OKAY?
THEY REALLY WANTED TO TALK TO ME, TOO!

I WAS ABLE TO TALK TO THEM!
ALL THANKS TO YOU, SHOUNEN!!
No, I just...

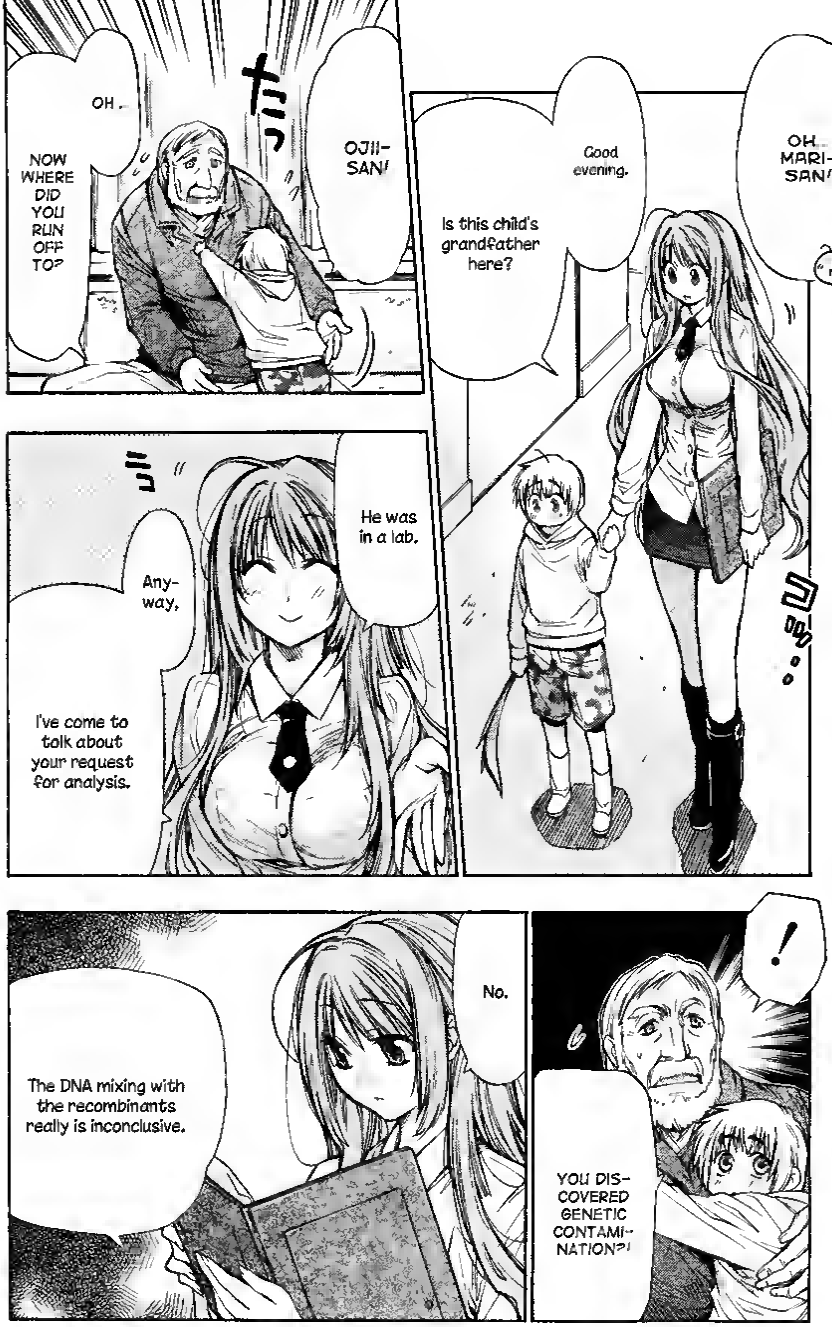
I COULD ONLY COME HERE BECAUSE OF SHOU-NEN'S...
...NO, IT ISN'T SHOUNEN.
I'M SURE YOU GAVE ME A NAME ONCE
...IT'S NAOYA.
AH...
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
NAOYA-KUN,
I HAD JUST ABOUT GIVEN UP.

BUT YOU BROUGHT ME TO THIS PLACE,
SECURITY SHOUNEN.
TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR WORK.
MY RESEARCH AND I
WILL NEVER LOSE TO YOUR "GUARDING ABILITY".

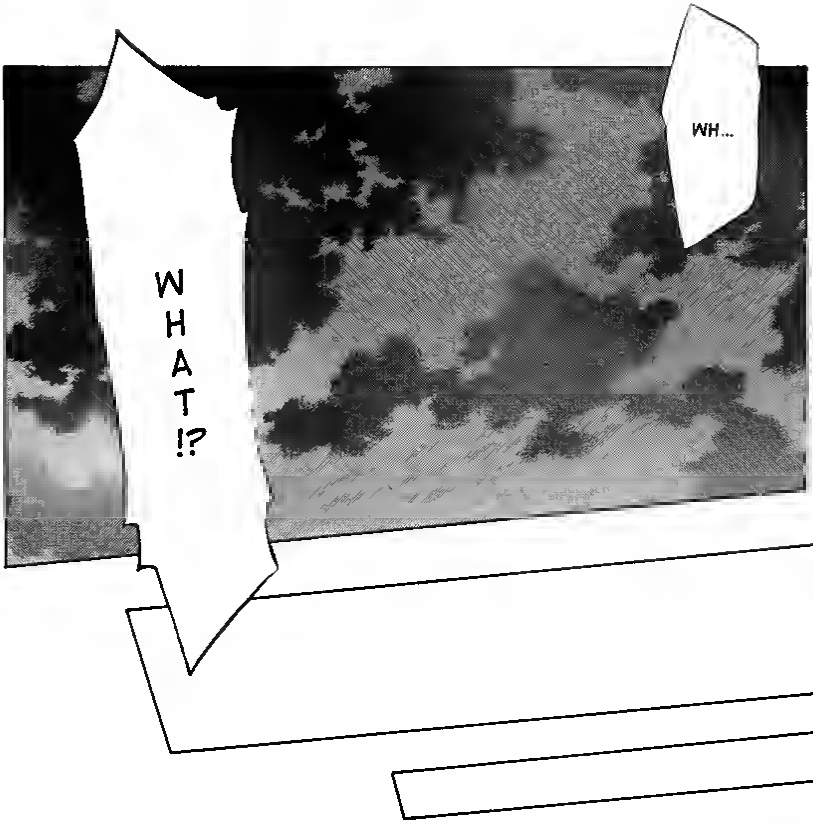
ERM..
JUST LOCATING IT DOESN'T ACTUALLY MEAN ANYTHING, SHOUNEN!
THERE ARE STILL SOME THINGS TO CHECK OUT POST HASTE!
D-DOCTOR, HOLD ON!
THAT'S...
WHOA!
THAT'S RIGHT! I CAN'T LEAVE THINGS LIKE THIS!
WHOA!
SAY... NAOYA, IS THIS OKAY? LETTING HER RUN FREE...
YEAH...
WELL, NOT REALLY, BUT I'M WATCHING OVER HER.

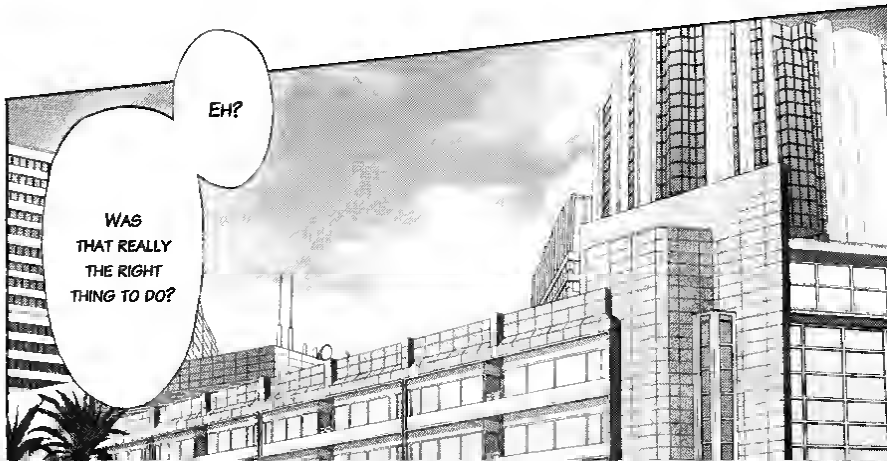
SHE'S ENJOYING HERSELF SO MUCH THAT I DON'T WANT TO INTERRUPT.
...YEAH.
YUP.
THINGS TURNED OUT WELL.

...HEY, YOUNG MISS
YOU UNDERSTAND, RIGHT?!
UM... YEAH
ERM...
AS A FARMER YOUR JOB IS REALLY HARD...
RIGHT!
BUT IT'S ALSO ABOUT GROWING THINGS...
YES
EVEN IF 0.01% OF THE WHOLE CROP MUTATES WE CAN'T SELL ANY OF IT
IN EUROPE AND JAPAN THEY'RE ESPECIALLY STRICT WITH RECOMBINANTS
IF THERE'S ANY GENETIC CONTAMINATION IT ALL GOES TO WASTE
WELL...
Care-giving in progress
Keep yourself toge-ther
Knock Knock
?...!!
AH-

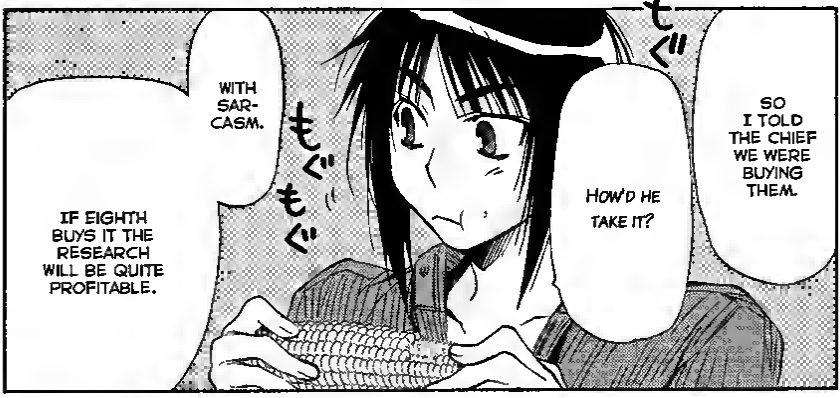

OJII-SAN!
OH.
NOW WHERE DID YOU RUN OFF TO?
OH... MARI-SAN!
Good evening.
Is this child's grandfather here?
He was in a lab.
Any-way,
I've come to talk about your request for analysis.
No.
The DNA mixing with the recombinants really is inconclusive.
!
YOU DIS-COVERED GENETIC CONTAMI-NATION?!

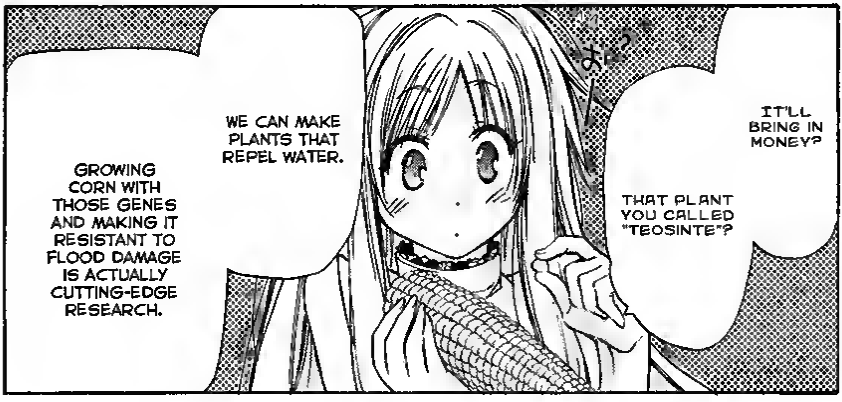
ANALYSES WERE CONDUCTED BY OTHER LABS AND THEIR RESULTS WERE THE SAME.
IT MAY HAVE BEEN MORE PRUDENT TO SIMPLY STOP.
THAT'S JUST...
BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE THERE'S NOBODY WE CAN HOLD RESPONSIBLE
OJII-SAN...
WE JUST GREW CORN THE USUAL WAY,
SO WHY DID THERE HAVE TO BE ABNORMALITIES...?
OJII-SAN...
The research staff——
are speculating that the teosinte is naturally cross-breeding with it.
We'll need to conduct follow-up observation as well.
That being the case,
we'll need to go one step further...
Eighth would like to purchase it for research purposes.
Your corn. All of it.

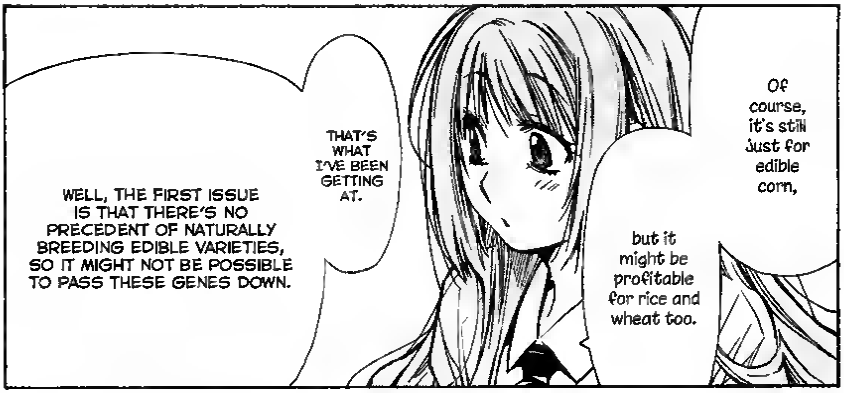

WH...
WHAT!?


EH?
WAS THAT REALLY THE RIGHT THING TO DO?

もぐ
もぐ
もぐ
IT ISN'T ABOUT BEING RIGHT.
SOMETHING HAS THAT TEOSINTE RESONATING WITH EXTRAORDINARY VERILITY IN AN UNBELIEVABLE LOCATION.
TO PROPERLY INVESTIGATE WE'LL NEED THOSE GIRLS' COOPERATION,


もぐ
SO I TOLD THE CHIEF WE WERE BUYING THEM.
HOW'D HE TAKE IT?
もぐもぐ
WITH SARCASM.
IF EIGHTH BUYS IT THE RESEARCH WILL BE QUITE PROFITABLE.


IT'LL BRING IN MONEY?
THAT PLANT YOU CALLED "TEOSINTE"?
WE CAN MAKE PLANTS THAT REPEL WATER.
GROWING CORN WITH THOSE GENES AND MAKING IT RESISTANT TO FLOOD DAMAGE IS ACTUALLY CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH.


Of course, it's still just for edible corn,
but it might be profitable for rice and wheat too.
THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN GETTING AT.
WELL, THE FIRST ISSUE IS THAT THERE'S NO PRECEDENT OF NATURALLY BREEDING EDIBLE VARIETIES, SO IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO PASS THESE GENES DOWN.

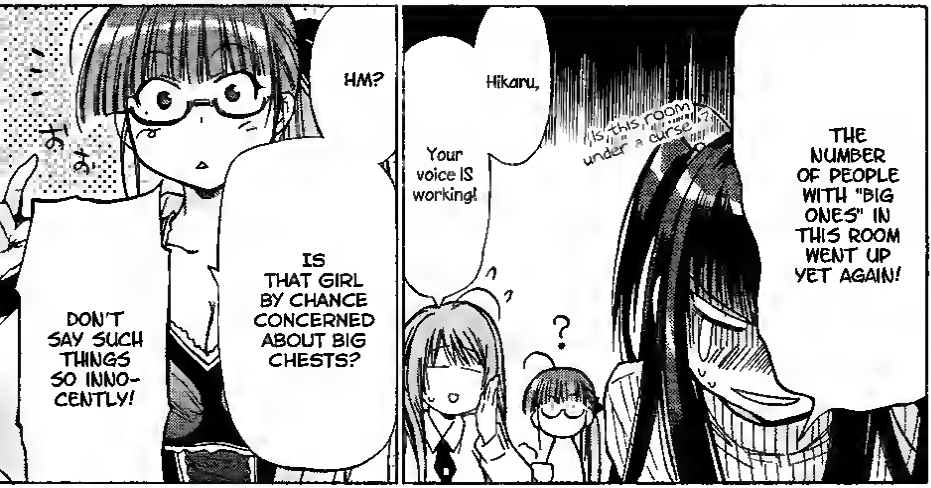
IN OTHER WORDS,
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT IT WAS BECAUSE THE KID DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS CARRYING THE STAMENS OF THE TEOSINTE IN THE FIELD WHEN HE WAS PLAYING AROUND.

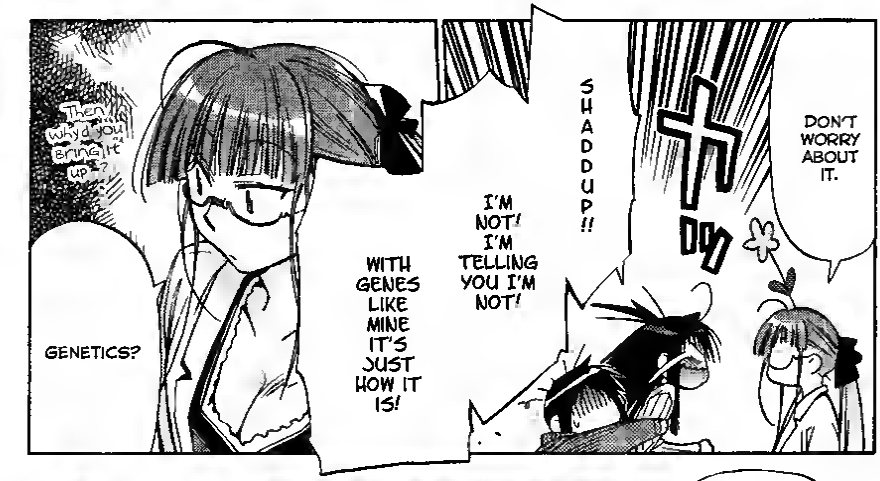
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHY DID WE BRING THEM WITH US?
Oh, he didn't tell you?
That kid called it his "lucky charm".
ER?

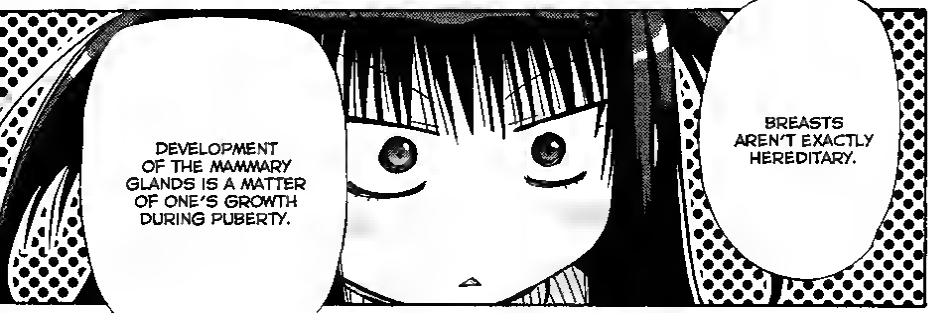
WHY IS MARI-SAN THE ONLY ONE HE GOT ALONG WITH?!
IT'S BECAUSE HE'S A PERVERTED BRAT!
Oh, so he's like you.
HUMANS ARE SO MUCH TROUBLE..
MARI-SAN'S AMAZING!
IN THAT REGARD, PLANTS ARE GREAT.
THEY SAY NOTHING ABOUT "WHAT IS GOOD" OR "WHO IS GOOD" AND SILENTLY PASS INFORMATION ONTO THE NEXT GENERATION BY BREEDING.
IT'S WONDERFUL HOW THEY DOESN'T USE USELESS WORDS.
That's NO...
HM... HEY, ARE WE OUT OF TEA?
SHOUNEN, GET SOME TEA.
...HOLD IT.

There's plenty more too
COOKING?
ISN'T THIS JUST ROASTED CORN?
AND WHY IS THERE SO MUCH?!
どーん
HMM.... IT'S GOOD THAT WE BOUGHT THEM ALL, BUT THERE ARE ALMOST TOO MANY...
N... NO, IT'S JUST ...
HIKARU'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN COOK...
ｷｭｯｷｭｯ!?
WHY DON'T YOU GUYS HELP OUT A LITTLE!?
Oh, she brought some
I'm still on duty

?
WHAT I MEAN IS...
THAT ISN'T REALLY...
CORN DOESN'T LAST THAT LONG AFTER IT'S BEEN PICKED,
SO HELP ME OUT.


HM?
IS THAT GIRL BY CHANCE CONCERNED ABOUT BIG CHESTS?
DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS SO INNOCENTLY!
Hikaru,
Your voice IS working!
Is this room under a curse!?
THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH "BIG ONES" IN THIS ROOM WENT UP YET AGAIN!


Then why'd you bring it up?
GENETICS?
WITH GENES LIKE MINE IT'S JUST HOW IT IS!
I'M NOT! I'M TELLING YOU I'M NOT!
SHADDUP!!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.


DEVELOPMENT OF THE MAMMARY GLANDS IS A MATTER OF ONE'S GROWTH DURING PUBERTY.
BREASTS AREN'T EXACTLY HEREDITARY.

BUT THEIR SIZE DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU DON'T USE THEM. BIG OR SMALL, THEY'RE BOTH JUST AS GOOD.
HM?
ERM...
WHICH MEANS?
SOME GROWTH IS STILL POSSIBLE.

One day I'll use them!
I'll use them!
AH-
UHM... RIGHT, UNDERSTOOD!
GOOD WORK, SHOUNEN. I'LL HEAD BACK TO MY LAB.
YUP, HUMANS ARE CERTAINLY TROUBLESOME.
I WONDER WHAT THAT WAS?
EEP

HEY,
DR. ANGELA.
LET'S TALK ABOUT PLANTS AGAIN SOME TIME!
.....
YOU'RE A CURIOUS ONE, SHOUNEN.
...AH, THAT'S RIGHT.
SHOUNEN, THIS TOO...
EH?
IT'S SOMETHING THIS SMALL?
THIS IS ACTUAL TEOSINTE.
KEEP IT AS A SOUVE-NIR.

HAHA,
YOU'RE SO GULLIBLE TOO!
Oof
This won't end well
Twig
Wait
IF IT WERE ANY BIGGER IT WOULD PULL THE STALK DOWN.
OOOH...

WHAT?
UNTIL I EXPRESS MY OWN OPINION, WHO KNOWS WHAT MY REAL MOTIVATION IS?
You tricked me!
EH!? YOU WERE JOKING?

PLANTS DON'T HAVE INTELLI-GENCE, RIGHT?
LIKE... EVEN IF YOU TALK TO THEM,

I'LL COME AGAIN,
SHOUNEN.
.....
SO THIS IS AN "ANCESTOR"...
IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S STILL CALLING YOU "SHOUNEN" AFTER ALL, NAOYA.
HM?
SHE CAN'T REMEMBER NAMES, BUT SHE CAN REMEMBER COMPLETE NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCES?
That's really something.
IT'S NO BIG DEAL...
FOR A DOCTOR.

OH NO! I ALMOST FORGOT!
GOMPF?!
HEY, SHOUNEN! WHERE ARE YOU?!
WH-
WHAT IS IT?!
AHH,
THE CORN WE JUST ATE!
IF SOMETHING REALLY BAD HAPPENS TO ANYONE WHO ATE IT, BE SURE TO TELL ME!
IT HASN'T BEEN DECLARED SAFE FOR CONSUMPTION YET.

NOTE: BY COLLECTING BODILY WASTE- E.G. IN THE TOILET
SFX: DIRECTOR*
まっすぐ
I WANT TO GATHER THE DATA!
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS...
I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
I'LL START WITH TESTS ON THE RELATIVES!
SFX: TONS
どっさり
EEP...
I'M SORRY, SHOUNEN, BUT COULD YOU BRING THE CRATES FOR ME?
I WANT TO DISTRIBUTE THEM.
ガタガタ
OH YEAH, THERE'S ONE OTHER THING.

TAKE ONE.
I'LL GIVE YOU SOME TOO, CHIEF.
YOU REALLY NEED TO EXPERIMENT ON HUMANS?
WOW, YOU'RE SHARP.
IT PROBABLY WON'T DO ANY DAMAGE; I ATE SOME MYSELF.
DO IT AFTER GETTING CONSENT FORMS, IDIOT.
I may seem like a bit much, but it's crucial!

SFX: GRIPE, NAG, COMPLAIN
This conversation feels anorm to me.
GUYS WHO COMPLAIN WILL NEVER BE POPULAR.
PRODUCE SOME DATA!
RIGHT, THE CHIEF IS A RESEARCHER TOO...
Just do it properly
WE'LL ALSO PROBABLY SERVE THESE IN PLACE OF EVERYONE'S MEALS.
YOU'RE GOING TO SCHEDULE PERIODIC BLOOD CHECKS, RIGHT?
REALLY, HUMANS ARE SUCH A BOTHER.
NO,
THAT ISN'T THE POINT!
DOCTOR...

Vege-tarian?
MUNCH MUNCH
CONSIDER THE EATING HABITS OF DR. ANGELA
A surpris-ingly car-nivorous woman?
Chicken is delicious!
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
A self-sufficient omnivorous system?
.....
Answer: Whichever is fastest
Let's have some real food
This is food you put hot water into
Oh..
THE FOOD TASTES GOOD, DOESN'T IT SHOU-NEN...?

That's right...
You too have at last taken your place in security.
Contra-tulations. I'm really happy for you.
THANK YOU. BUT...
IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL.
Oh?
I disagree. You're one of Eighth Security Guards' chosen people, right?
YOU'RE PATRONIZING ME...
FOR ALL I KNOW YOU MAY BE LAUGHING AT ME.

No way, Naoya-kun...
If there's a "person you're protecting",
it's okay to be afraid of a lie, but put on a strong and gentle face.
MARI-SAN...
I know you will be a most wonderful guard...
It'll be okay.
AND THUS, WITHOUT WARNING, ON MY FIRST DAY
I FOUND MYSELF PROTECTING MARI-SAN.
MARI-SAN LOOKED OUT FOR ME BECAUSE I WAS STILL YOUNG.
HOW POINT-LESS.
MARI-SAN IS "WEAK".

You called, Chief?
AH, YEAH.
MARI-CHAN, WHAT COLOR ARE YOUR PANTIES TODAY?
Oh, I'm not wearing any.
Psyche.
THAT'S TOO QUICK!
SHOW SOME LOVE AND LEAVE A BIT TO THE IMAGINATION!
Not a chance.

I'LL BE TAKING AN AFTERNOON FLIGHT TO ATLANTA.
Oh?
It seems you don't have anything scheduled to do outside.
THIS IS RATHER SUDDEN.
YOU HAVE A MEETING WITH THE CDC*.

*CDC USA's Center For Disease Control

Sigh... That'll be later.
Will I be accompanying you?
NO, FROM HQ I WILL TRAVEL WITH A ONE-MAN ESCORT.
IN MY ABSENCE YOU WILL RUN EIGHTH AS USUAL, MORE OR LESS.
Understood.

Operation.8 (オペレーション)
GENES OF LOVE

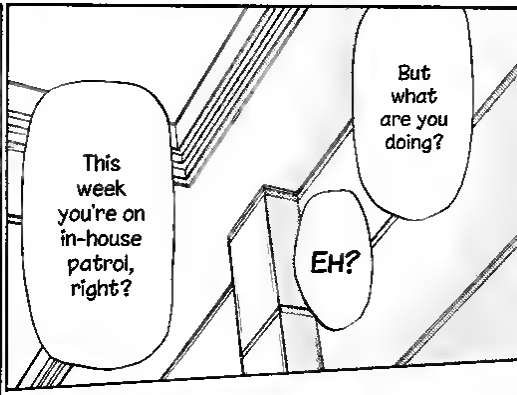
Let me see...
I've got the plane ticket...
Today there's an elevator inspection.
I'd better make it to that one...
There's a report that the cold storage room's in bad condition.
I'll manage this one too, somehow.
Yup.

Hm?
MARI-SAN!
Mmm, and... the thing with Dr. Shinjou... Yeah.
After that, there's that, and then this thing ..

Oh, Naoya-kun.
WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO?
BUSY WITH WORK?
That's right.
Ehe
MARI-SAN'S SO BUSY.

Aah... Erm,
If we're heading in the same direction, let's go together.
Of course.
Yeah!

Come more often, shounen!
I'm not just cooling my heels!
She caught me in the middle of a patrol and told me she wanted me to grab it from cold storage.
Is that so?
Oh yeah... That's right. The cold storage room is kinda funny, isn't it?


But what are you doing?
Eh?
This week you're on in-house patrol, right?

What's that box?
Oh-
This is something Dr. Angela asked me to take care of.
Ange

IT WAS CONSTANTLY MAKING THIS WEIRD SOUND.
Mhm...
Yeah, if it's in bad condition then that's a priority.
you'd better run off to where Dr. Angela is.
EH?
So then...
WELL...
No,
Wah
Thank you, Naoya-kun. You really saved me.
Ange

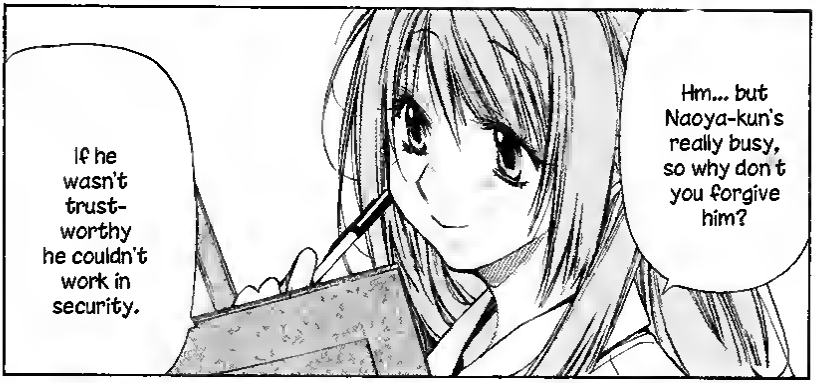
SFX. DASH
EEEEH
Why don't you put it in storage!
If you have something you took out of cold storage, you'd better hurry up and deliver it!
Waaa— What happened to going together with Mari-san—?!

SFX BEEP
UGH OH WELL, THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS
3rd floor and
MY LONG-AWAITED CHANCE TO BE WITH MARI-SAN
WELL, NOTHING TO BE DONE ABOUT IT
Oh, it's you.
!
YES MA'AM.
A moment, if you please...
SFX BONK
OW

.....
YEAH ...
HOW DO I PUT IT?
MARI-SAN'S ALL BUSI-NESS...
JUST "A MOMENT, IF YOU PLEASE"
AND I'M ALL EARS
Dammit
HEY! OVER HERE, MARI-SAN!
LOOK AT THIS! IT'S JUST AWFUL!
What a mess
NAOYA'S ALWAYS DUMPING HIS CLOTHES EVERYWHERE.
Oooh, At what?
My my, what have we here...?

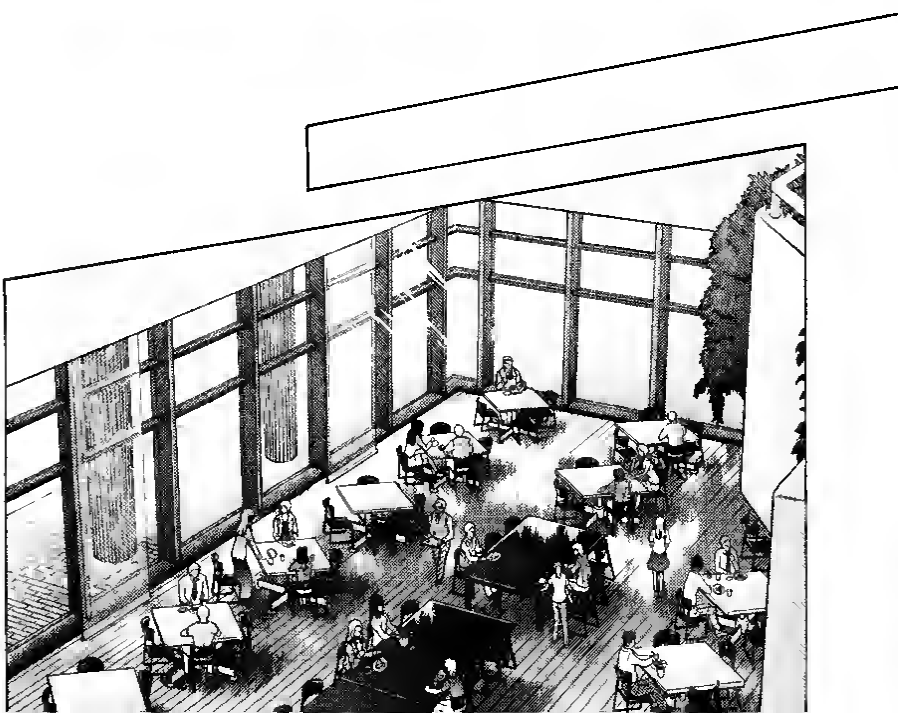
THIS SLOPPINESS IS AS BAD AS DADDY'S!
THAT'S WHAT IT GETS LIKE IF I LET IT BE FOR JUST A FEW DAYS.
Well, yeah.
AND THE ROOM'S GOTTEN A STUFFY ODOR... AND, UHM... YOU KNOW...
AT LEAST PUT YOUR UNDERWEAR AND STUFF AWAY!!
There are girls present! It's awful!
She has indeed seen his underwear...
You're right... He's such a problem child.
.....
IF IT WAS JUST YOUR ROOM THEN MAYBE, BUT...!!
Understood.
I'll smack him around.
Smack him around later and then
EEH !?!
Smack
N-NO... YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO THAT FAR...

They say a careless man is a dead man...
GULP!!
I DIDN'T SAY THAT!! I'M NOT GOING THAT FAR WITH IT!!!
Shake Shake
SHIVE
Ehe-he~
IT WAS A JOKE. SORRY.
ERM...


Hm... but Naoya-kun's really busy, so why don't you forgive him?
If he wasn't trust-worthy he couldn't work in security.

I mean, right now he's giving his job 110%.
I...
I KNOW THAT... BUT STILL...

Erm...
There's something I need to talk to you about for a moment...
Ah-
Hikaru, wait.
Y...
YEAH, LET'S.
HEY, UM... IN THAT CASE, LET'S GET THE LAUNDRY DONE!
Yeah!



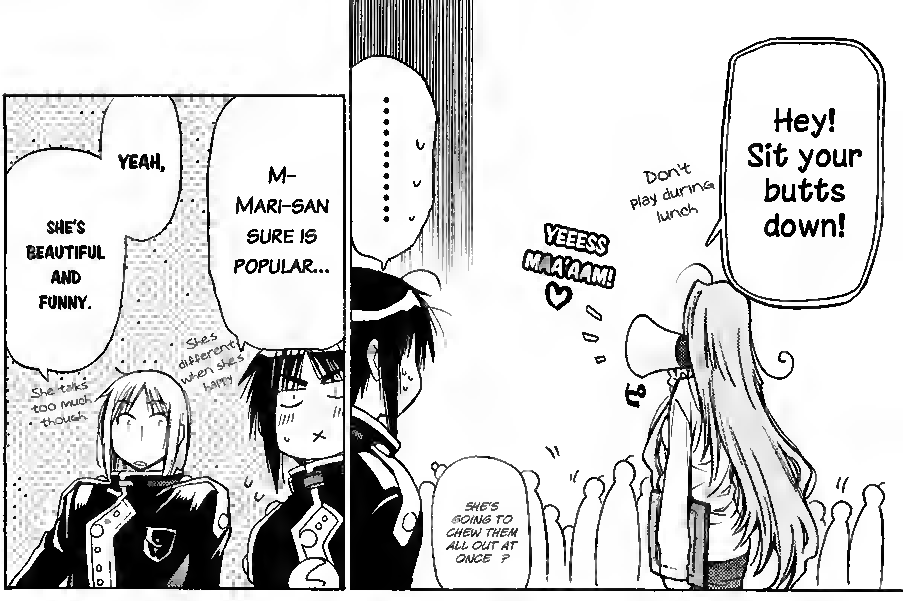
カチャ
カチャ
HEY NOW ...
"GENES OF LOVE"?
カチ
カチ
カチ
I HEARD ABOUT THEM TOO.
The staff were talking about it
YEAH, THERE'S SOMETHING CALLED THAT.
IT'S A POPULAR TERM NOW.
THEY WERE SAYING SOME-THING... UM...
"HLA GENES"?
REALLY?
THAT'S IT.

Young kids. Getting all dingy.
EH? WHAT'S THAT?
HLA ARE GENES THAT DETERMINE A PERSON'S IMMUNE FUNCTION.
GENES CALLED "LOVE"?!
THEY DETECT AND FIGHT OFF FOREIGN SUBSTANCES IN THE BODY.
HLA.
AH, THAT CERTAINLY IS THE CHIEF'S AREA OF EXPERTISE. RIGHT?
THEY'RE FUNCTION IS TO CREATE ANTIBODIES AGAINST VIRUSES AND SUCH.
LIKE HOW AFTER YOU CATCH A COLD YOU DON'T GET THE SAME ONE AGAIN?
YEAH, AND REJECTING TRANSPLANT MATERIALS FROM OTHER PEOPLE.
It's a foreign body, after all.
Rejected!
Bring it!
OKAY, BUT WHERE DOES "LOVE" FIT IN?

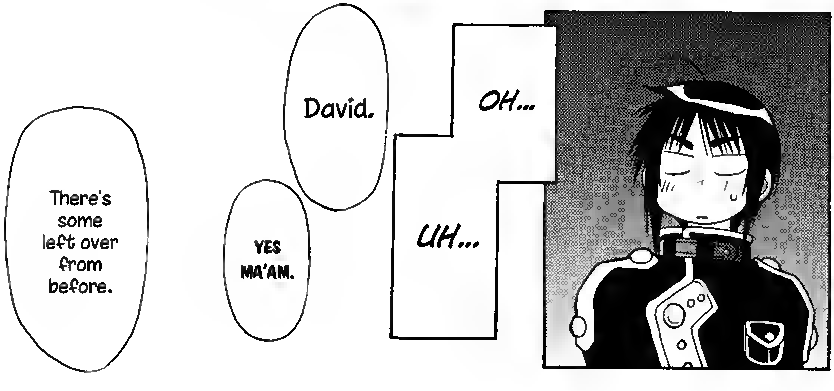
EEH?
PUT SIMPLY:
IF THEY DON'T HAVE THEIR OWN, THEY CAN BE DRAWN TO THOSE THAT CARRY HLA GENES.
THAT CAN HANDLE A VARIETY OF THINGS.
IT'S BETTER TO HAVE A STRONGER IMMUNE SYSTEM
THIS IS A PERVERTED CONVER-SATION!
WHOOOAAAA!
It's great, right?
Wrong!
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT!!
in detail
"WE WANT STRONGER CHILDREN IN THE NEXT GENERATION".
RED+RED=1 COLOR AND WHITE+WHITE=1 COLOR, BUT RED+WHITE=2 COLORS!
!!!

AS FOR GIRLS ...
AH?
SENPAI, DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
YOU END UP PICKING THE PARTNER THAT YOU LIKE.
You can't see the good DNA
Too much detail
I DON'T REALLY VERIFY THINGS LIKE THAT BEFORE I LOOK FOR LOVE.
FOR WOMEN, THE KEY SEEMS TO BE
Somehow it's an unconscious attraction
A MAN'S SCENT.
WOW
THIS IS AN EROTIC CONVERSATION.
Awesome
SERIOUSLY?
EEEEH?!
GUYS AREN'T LIKE WOMEN. DETERMINING HLA COMPATIBILITY IS CLOSER TO HOW WOMEN THINK OF A MAN IN FRONT OF THEM.
EH? THEN, WHAT ABOUT FOR GUYS?!

NO, THAT'S JUST FOR WOMEN.
GYAAAA
SCARY
The truth is really scary
When it comes to boys,
it seems the answer is always "yes', no matter who the other person is.
MARI-SAN!
Hi
Eeeh?
What's all this?
END OF THE LINE
I'LL SNIFF YOU!
OKAY, LINE UP!
SO CUTE
WHOA, IT'S MARI!
The Goddess
IT'S MARI-CHAN!


Hey! Sit your butts down!
Don't play during lunch
YEEESS MA'AM!
SHE'S GOING TO CHEW THEM ALL OUT AT ONCE ?
M-MARI-SAN SURE IS POPULAR...
YEAH, SHE'S BEAUTIFUL AND FUNNY.
She's different when she's horny
She talks too much though

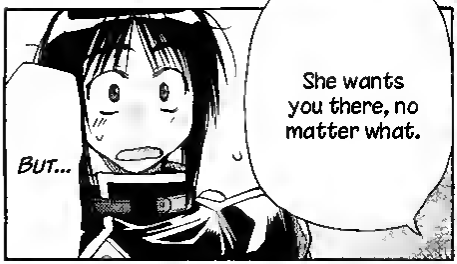
?
I HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT THAT BEFORE.
WELL, YEAH, IT'S NOT SOMETHING TO BE SPOKEN OF AT WORK.
IT'S BECAUSE ONLY GUYS ARE IN THE CAFETERIA DURING THE BREAK.


There's some left over from before.
David.
YES MA'AM.
OH...
UH...

From 3:00 onward today you're to perform elevator maintenance and inspection.
I'll be fun
If you please, I'll go too and start with you.
UNDERSTOOD.
Henry.
YES MA'AM.
You'll pair up with Oscar to oversee changes in the house patrol.
UNDERSTOOD, MA'AM.

I've adjusted the schedule
You'll be at Dr. Angela's place this afternoon.
EH?

MARI-SAN, ISN'T THAT MY JOB?!
EH?
WAI-

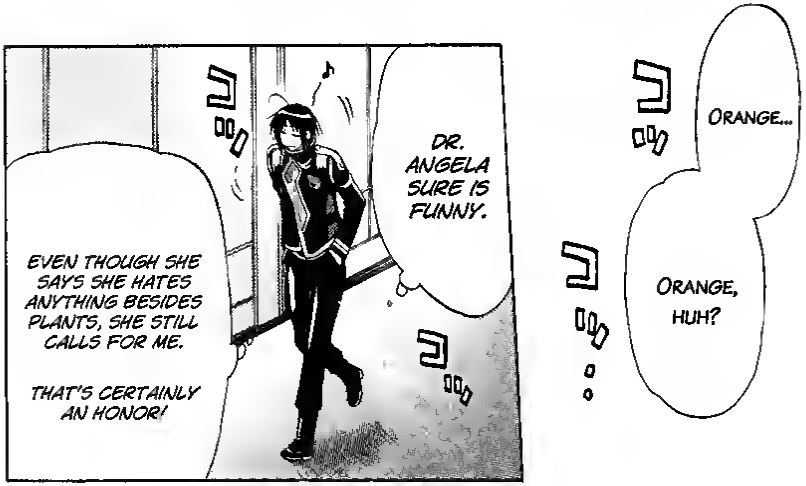

She wants you there, no matter what.
BUT...

No buts, Naoya-kun.
You're the only one who didn't say "yes ma'am"
OH?
Being relied on is a privilege.
Hurry up and get a move on.
I'm sure she's waiting for you.

UNDER-STOOD, MA'AM...
AHHH, BACK HERE AGAIN ...
UGH.
ガラン
Ah so the Doctor is into sleeping backtoo!
ZZZZZZZZ

Mmmm
OOH,
IT'S THE SHOUNEN...
SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR NAP.
NNN-HUH?!
DR. ANGE-LA!!
ぴょこ
もいもいもい
HM...?
BUT I WAS INSTRUCTED TO COME SEE YOU, DOCTOR...
UMM.... OH YEAH, I DID CALL YOU... DIDN'T I...?
OH YEAH... I REMEMBER NOW, SHOUNEN.
COULD YOU GO TO THE COLD STORAGE ROOM FOR ME AGAIN?
EH?
SORRY, THIS TIME IT'S A DIFFERENT BOX. THERE'S AN ORANGE BOX... OF REAGENTS...

NOTE: SHE THINKS HE MEANT THE TOMATOES ARE WORN OUT


ORANGE...
ORANGE, HUH?
DR. ANGELA SURE IS FUNNY.
EVEN THOUGH SHE SAYS SHE HATES ANYTHING BESIDES PLANTS, SHE STILL CALLS FOR ME.
THAT'S CERTAINLY AN HONOR!

AH, I SEE. DR. ANGELA'S A WOMAN.
SO SHE REALLY CAN JUDGE BY SMELL.
THIS HAS A GOOD SCENT!
AND THIS DOES NOT!
AND... THIS IS HOW IT NORMALLY IS...?
WAIT... WHAT IF IT'S THAT MARI-SAN SEEMS SO HEARTLESS BECAUSE OF THAT...?!
NO WAY... AREN'T THEY GENES YOU'RE BORN WITH...?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, AND IF SHE THINKS THINGS LIKE "NOT THIS GUY"...
THEN THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE ABOUT IT----
ka- klikk..
!

HM...
EH?
MARI-SAN?!
EH..? ISN'T THAT COLD STORAGE?!
WAI-...
MARI-SAN, WAIT!
Eh?
YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE DRESSED SO LIGHTLY!

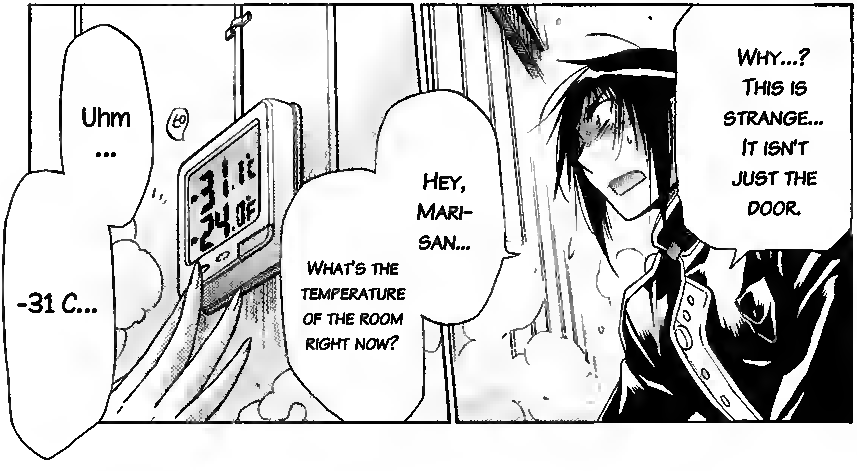
Oh...
Eh?
Naoya-kun...?
Why are you---
ゴォォォォォ
THAT'S COLD !!!
ひぃ
いぃっ!
W-Well, that's because this is the cold storage room.
NO! NO! NO! I KNOW THAT!!
Is that what you came to say?!

I mean, I'm only human
It's likely
W-WOW, AREN'T YOU COLD, MARI-SAN?!
Of course I'm cold!
SAY, WHY ARE YOU HERE?
They have them right outside!
コオオオ
I'd heard this room was in bad shape.
I thought I'd move the crates to another freezer...
WEAR A COAT, WILL YA? IT'S DANGEROUS!
For now I just wanted to see how much there was to move.
There's a wide array of things ready for the transfer.
EH?
DON'T TELL ME... YOU WERE PLANNING TO DO IT ALL BY YOURSELF?!

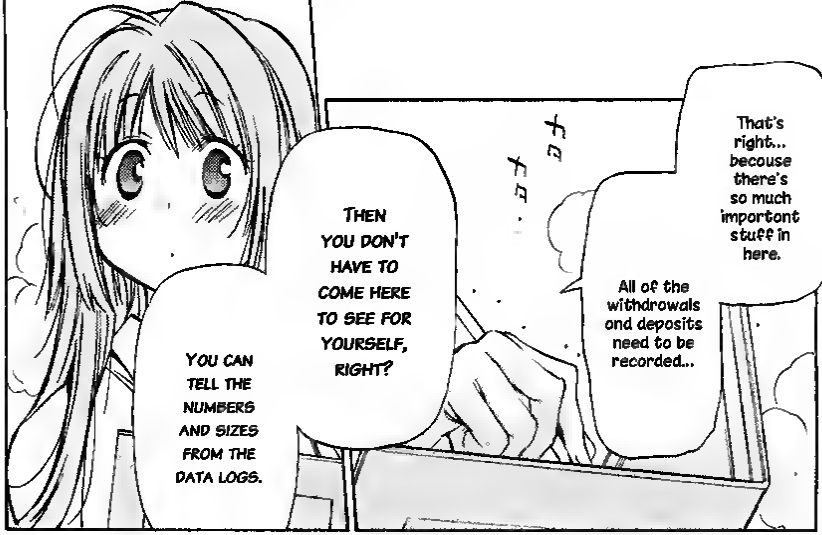
This is the only place I didn't fill. I assigned all of them to other tasks.
ISN'T MOVING THINGS AROUND A JOB FOR SECURITY? WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL THEM?
Ah... I guess I can't do it.
If I factor in round trips...
You're tied up today too.
But you're never like that.
YOU'D ALWAYS BE LIKE "I'LL GIVE YOU A KISS IF YOU'LL CARRY THEM FOR ME".
IN THAT CASE, IF I HELPED YOU
If it's going to fail, we have to hurry up and get it fixed.
ゴォォ
オォォ...
WHAT I MEAN IS...
THAT'S... LOOK, I GET IT, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I'M NOT DOING MY JOB.
"Mari-san, Mari-san!" Get back to work!
And when I got here you were like
W-WELL... THAT'S...
You know that you can't take on other duties since you've already been assigned work, right?

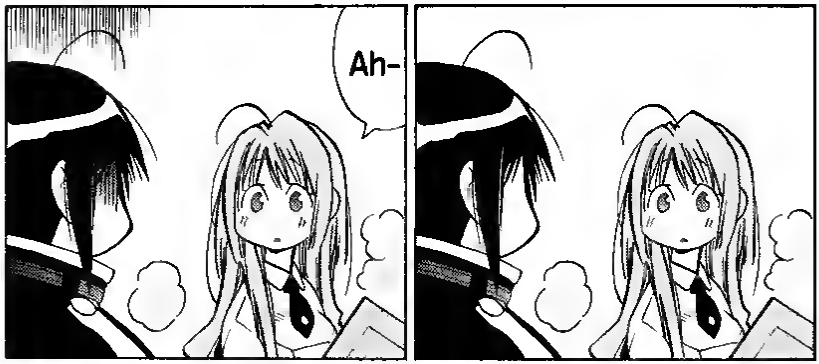
Th... That's true...
This is as much as we can take!
SHOULDN'T WE TALK ABOUT THIS AFTER WE GET OUT OF HERE?
clank- clank- clank- clank
clank clank
click- CLANK
Maybe if you push?
WE'RE ON THE WRONG SIDE.
Oh yeah ...
GRRRR
Wasn't there a "strange noise" in the lock controls?

Even though it's not supposed to lock without using a card...
I'm sure glad I have one of the guards here...
So cold ...
THE BUTTON ISN'T TURNING ON!!
Nah, just wait. It'll be fine.
Ha-ha-ha. Don't worry!
It's for times like this
That they have a manual button for emergency release.
♡


Why...? This is strange... It isn't just the door.
Hey, Mari-san...
What's the temperature of the room right now?
Uhm ...
-31 C...

That IS strange...
That's too low.
haaa...
So it's been... going down bit by bit... okay.
The cooling system's also on the fritz...
I'd better write that down...
……?
Yeah...
so I'll have it when it's time to get it fixed...
WHAT...?
So I can explain it...
N-NOW...? YOU'RE GOING TO STOP AND TAKE THE TIME TO WRITE THAT DOWN?
B-BY THE WAY...
……
YOU'RE HERE TO ORGANIZE THE DATA ON ALL OF THIS INVENTORY, RIGHT?


That's right... becouse there's so much important stuff in here.
All of the withdrowals ond deposits need to be recorded...
THEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME HERE TO SEE FOR YOURSELF, RIGHT?
YOU CAN TELL THE NUMBERS AND SIZES FROM THE DATA LOGS.


Ah-

MARI-SAN, ARE YOU OKAY?!
Eh?
Absolutely fine. Why?

I THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING WEIRD BEFORE...
Mmpf...
MARI-SAN!
!
A.... ARE YOU OKAY?!
Huh ...?
Yeah... Just lost my balance for a bit there...
Thanks, I'm fine.

WAIT ...
MARI-SAN, ARE YOU REALLY FEELING OKAY?
Geez... what are you saying?
How could anyone feel okay in as cold a place as this?

N-NO... THAT'S NOT IT.
WHY DID YOU HIDE IT?!
Eh?

IT'S REALLY HOT!
Isn't this room freezing?!
I MEAN YOUR BODY, MARI-SAN!

I am, huh..?
No... Me? I'm really ...
I MEAN YOU!!
Eh ...?
LEANING ON ME...
!!
!!
Because... I'm really...
WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS?!
MARI-SAN, YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THAT! YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT AND WIND UP---
WAAAA

Uh ...
Wait ...!!
WAAA-AAAA!!!
What? Why? Wait! Hold on! Ah hell...
Aaaahhh...
Mari-san, why...?
Why didn't you tell me sooner?
It's so cold... This will cause a problem, huh?
Hey! Hang on!!

CAN'T YOU JUST TALK TO ME?
IS IT REALLY JUST ABOUT WORK?
What are you talking about ...?
I don't what you're getting at...
AGAIN ---
I KNOW EVEN LESS ...!
Hey... Why--
Why are you spoiling me like this...?

You'd be angry if I treated you like a kid.
yet you don't want special treatment.
Am I sulking... like a child?

MARI-SAN...
Say, when will it be...?
I wonder when... it will be okay...
for me to see you as an "adult male"...

Starting now...
ALRIGHT ...
BUT BEFORE THAT, I HAVE TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE...!!
OKAY !!
ｷｬｯ

ゴオオオ
BUT HOW...?
THIS IS A STORAGE AREA,
SO THERE SHOULD BE A WAY OUT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.
THERE HAS TO BE...
!
THERE!!
THE FAN UNIT'S SERVICE ACCESS.
I CAN GET UP USING THE SHELVES,
BUT MARI-SAN...
Naoya-kun...
ゴオオオ

Go.
THAT'S AN ORDER.
ALLEY ...
MARI-SAN!
IF IT KEEPS GOING LIKE THIS, HOW LOW A TEMPER-ATURE WILL IT REACH?
OOP!
8... 80.
What kind of analogy is that?
At minus 80... you can hit a banana like a nail...

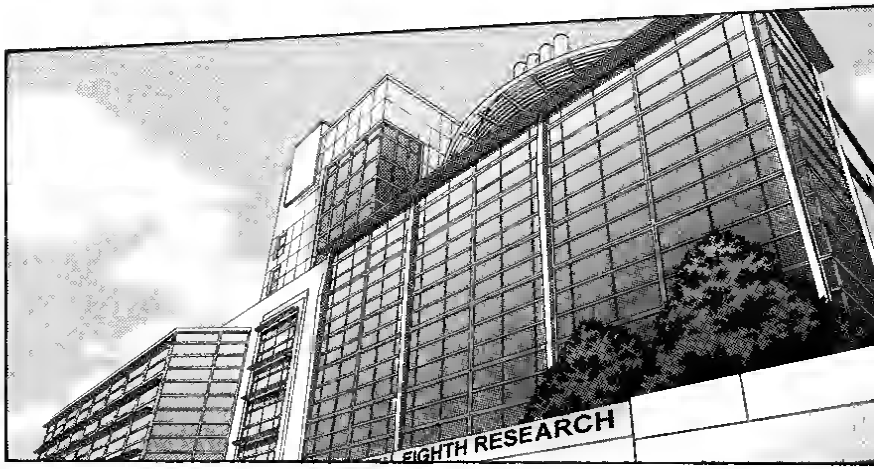
IF I LEAVE THE HATCH OPEN UP HERE, THE TEMPERATURE MAY RISE...
EH?
BUT THE TEMPERATURE WILL KEEP ON FALLING!
N-
No! Shut the hatch!
What are you saying ???
It's better not to raise it!
There are materials from a lot of important research projects here!
Naoya-kun!!

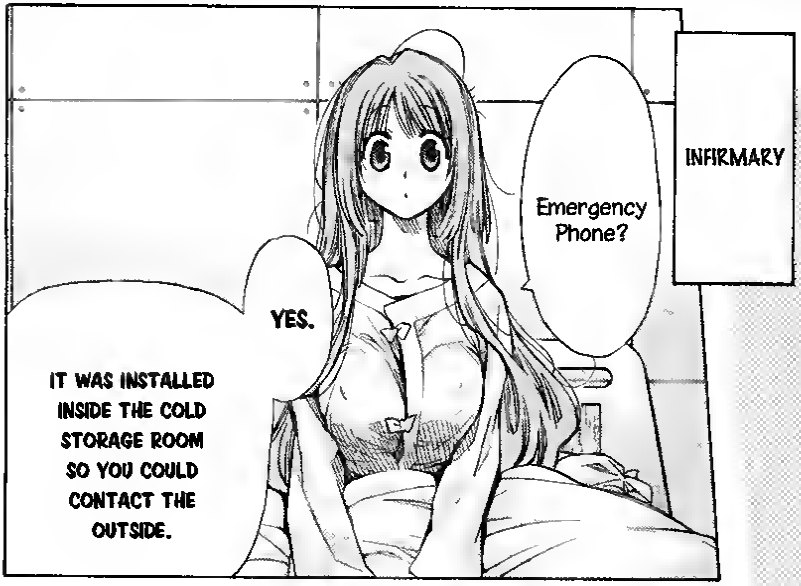
HEY, HEY...

SFX. BAM
Ah-
Hey!
You forgot to close it!!
What a kid ...

Uh...
Whew ...
Geez ---
Naoya-kun... just doesn't understand... how important...
the things stored in here are.
Next time... I'd better explain...

Haaaa...
Uh...
I should've had him give me his pants too...


EIGHTH RESEARCH

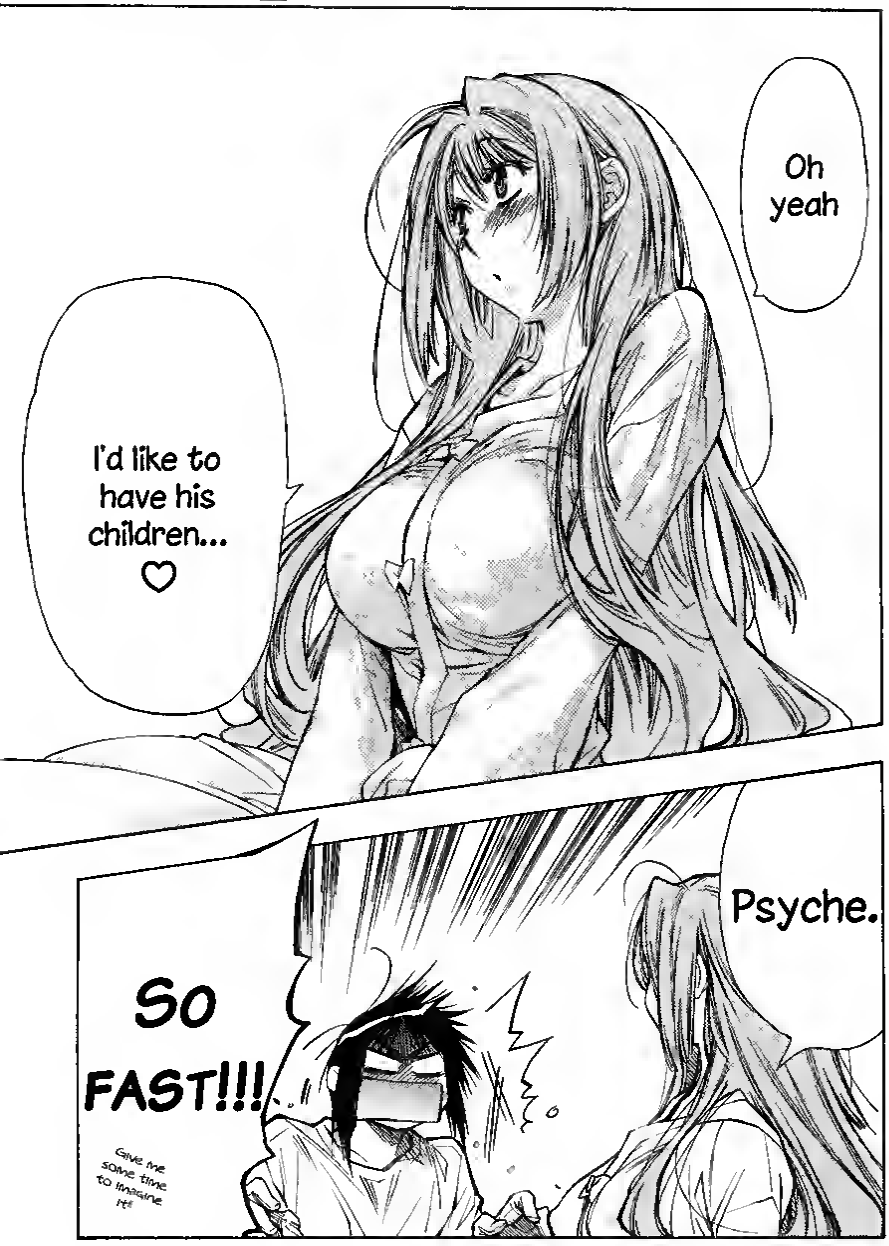

INFIRMARY
Emergency Phone?
YES.
IT WAS INSTALLED INSIDE THE COLD STORAGE ROOM SO YOU COULD CONTACT THE OUTSIDE.

I'M THE ONE WHO TEACHES THAT DURING TRAINING.
WE'RE SORRY THAT THIS GUY FORGOT IN THE EXCITEMENT.
Ah ...
So something like that exists.

MARI-SAN, ARE YOU OKAY? IF YOU'RE IN POOR HEALTH, IT'D BE BETTER TO TAKE SOME TIME OFF WORK.
And if Naoya-kun hadn't come, I would've died (
It's fine. We saved the research materials.

AND NOW?
How long ago was she sick...?
I'm fine.
Still, it'd be better not to give it to others.
I didn't get that much of a fever, so I'm not worried about it.
Hmmmm
I don't really know how I am.

Thank you.
WELL, YOU'D BETTER TAKE IT EASY FOR A WHILE.
!!?
じゅっ
Right, Naoya-kun.
I'll clean the uniform I borrowed and return it, so go wear a spare.
AH-
UHM ...
Actually ...
Wha... What?
Eeeh, ...?!
WHEN IT COMES TO "THAT", HOW ABOUT THIS GUY?
Aah ...
That talk about the HLA genes, huh...?
GJ-senpai


Oh yeah
I'd like to have his children... ♡
Psyche.
SO FAST!!!
Give me some time to imagine it!